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Shepherds of Christ Associates

P R A Y E R M A N U A L

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Chapter Meeting Prayer Format

The prayer format below should be followed at chapter meetings of *Shepherds of Christ Associates*. All prayers, not just those said specifically for priests, should include the intention of praying for all the needs of priests the world over.

1. **Hymns.** Hymns may be sung at any point of the prayer part of the meeting.
2. **Holy Spirit Prayer.** Come, Holy Spirit, almighty Sanctifier, God of love, who filled the Virgin Mary with grace, who wonderfully changed the hearts of the apostles, who endowed all Your martyrs with miraculous courage, come and sanctify us. Enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, purify our consciences, rectify our judgment, set our hearts on fire, and preserve us from the misfortunes of resisting Your inspirations. Amen.
3. **The Rosary.**
4. **Salve Regina.** “Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, our mourning, our weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us and after this, our exile,

show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.”

5. **The Memorare.** “Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but, in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.”

6. **Seven Hail Marys in honor of the Seven Sorrows of Mary.** Mary has promised very special graces to those who do this on a daily basis. Included in the promises of Our Lady for those who practice this devotion is her pledge to give special assistance at the hour of death, including the sight of her face. The seven sorrows are:

- (1) The first sorrow: the prophecy of Simeon (Hail Mary).
- (2) The second sorrow: the flight into Egypt (Hail Mary).
- (3) The third sorrow: the loss of the Child Jesus in the temple (Hail Mary).
- (4) The fourth sorrow: Jesus and Mary meet on the way to the cross (Hail Mary).
- (5) The fifth sorrow: Jesus dies on the cross (Hail Mary).
- (6) The sixth sorrow: Jesus is taken down from the cross and laid in Mary’s arms (Hail Mary).
- (7) The seventh sorrow: the burial of Jesus (Hail Mary).

7. **Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us* (repeat after each invocation).

Holy Mother of God,

Holy Virgin of virgins,

Mother of Christ,

Mother of the Church,

Mother of divine grace,

Mother most pure,

Mother most chaste,

Mother inviolate,

Mother undefiled,

Mother most amiable,

Mother most admirable,

Mother of good counsel,

Mother of our Creator,

Mother of our Savior,

Virgin most prudent,

Virgin most venerable,

Virgin most renowned,

Virgin most powerful,

Virgin most merciful,

Virgin most faithful,

Mirror of justice,

Seat of wisdom,

Cause of our joy,

Spiritual vessel,

Vessel of honor,

Singular vessel of devotion,

Mystical rose,

Tower of David,

Tower of ivory,
 House of gold,
 Ark of the Covenant,
 Gate of heaven,
 Morning star,
 Health of the sick,
 Refuge of sinners,
 Comforter of the afflicted,
 Help of Christians,
 Queen of angels,
 Queen of patriarchs,
 Queen of prophets,
 Queen of apostles,
 Queen of martyrs,
 Queen of confessors,
 Queen of virgins,
 Queen of all saints,
 Queen conceived without original sin,
 Queen assumed into heaven,
 Queen of the most holy rosary,
 Queen of families,
 Queen of peace,
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
 spare us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
 graciously hear us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us.
 Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
 that we may be made worthy of the promises of
 Christ.

Let us pray: Grant, we beseech You, O Lord God, that we Your servants may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body and, by the glorious intercession of the blessed Mary, ever virgin, be delivered from present sorrow, and obtain eternal joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We fly to your patronage, O holy Mother of God.

Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

8. Prayer to St. Joseph. St. Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste spouse of Mary, you passed your life in perfect fulfillment of duty. You supported the Holy Family of Nazareth with the work of your hands. Kindly protect those who trustingly turn to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes; and they turn to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too have known trial, labor, and weariness. But, even amid the worries of material life, your soul was filled with deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with the Son of God entrusted to you, and with Mary, His tender Mother. Amen. —(*Pope John XXIII*)

9. Litany of the Sacred Heart, promises of the Sacred Heart.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven,

have mercy on us (repeat after each invocation).

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Heart of Jesus, Son of the eternal Father,

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mother,

Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God,

Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty,

Heart of Jesus, sacred temple of God,

Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,

Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven,

Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity,
 Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love,
 Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,
 Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,
 Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,
 Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,
 Heart of Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,
 Heart of Jesus, in whom dwells the fullness of divinity,
 Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father is well pleased,
 Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received,
 Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills,
 Heart of Jesus, patient and most merciful,
 Heart of Jesus, enriching all who invoke You,
 Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness,
 Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our sins,
 Heart of Jesus, loaded down with opprobrium,
 Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses,
 Heart of Jesus, obedient even to death,
 Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,
 Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,
 Heart of Jesus, our life and reconciliation,
 Heart of Jesus, victim of sin,
 Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who hope in You,
 Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in You,
 Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints,
 Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
 Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
make our hearts like unto Yours.

Let us pray: O almighty and eternal God, look upon

the Heart of Your dearly beloved Son and upon the praise and satisfaction He offers You in behalf of sinners and, being appeased, grant pardon to those who seek Your mercy, in the name of the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

Promises of Our Lord to those devoted to His Sacred Heart (these should be read by the prayer leader):

- (1) I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
- (2) I will establish peace in their homes.
- (3) I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
- (4) I will be their refuge during life and above all in death.
- (5) I will bestow a large blessing on all their undertakings.
- (6) Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.
- (7) Tepid souls shall grow fervent.
- (8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
- (9) I will bless every place where a picture of My Heart shall be set up and honored.
- (10) I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
- (11) Those who promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.
- (12) I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the first Friday in nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving their sacraments; My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

10. **Prayer for Priests.** “Lord Jesus, Chief Shepherd of the Flock, we pray that in the great love and mercy of Your Sacred Heart You attend to all the needs of Your priest-shepherds throughout the world. We ask that You draw back to Your Heart all those priests who have seriously strayed from Your path, that You rekindle the desire for holiness in the hearts of those priests who have become lukewarm, and that You continue to give Your fervent priests the desire for the highest holiness. United with Your Heart and Mary’s Heart, we ask that You take this petition to Your heavenly Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

11. **Prayer for all members of the *Shepherds of Christ Associates*.** “Dear Jesus, we ask Your special blessings on all members of *Shepherds of Christ Associates*. Continue to enlighten them regarding the very special privilege and responsibility you have given them as members of Your movement, *Shepherds of Christ Associates*. Draw them ever closer to Your Heart and to Your Mother’s Heart. Allow them to more and more realize the great and special love of Your Hearts for each of them as unique individuals. Give them the grace to respond to Your love and Mary’s love with an increased love of their own. As they dwell in Your Heart and Mary’s Heart, abundantly care for all their needs and those of their loved ones. We make our prayer through You to the Father, in the Holy Spirit, with Mary our Mother at our side. Amen.”

12. **Prayer for the spiritual and financial success of the priestly newsletter.** “Father, we ask Your special blessings upon the priestly newsletter, *Shepherds of Christ*. We ask that You open the priest-readers to the graces You wish to give them through this chosen instrument of Your Son. We also ask that You

provide for the financial needs of the newsletter and the *Shepherds of Christ Associates*. We make our prayer through Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, with Mary at our side. Amen.”

13. **Prayer for all members of the human family.** “Heavenly Father, we ask Your blessings on all Your children the world over. Attend to all their needs. We ask Your special assistance for all those marginalized people, all those who are so neglected and forgotten. United with our Mother Mary, we make this petition to You through Jesus and in the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

14. **Prayer to St. Michael and our Guardian Angels:** “St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.”

“Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God’s love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.”

15. **Pause for silent, personal prayer.** This should last at least five minutes.

16. **Act of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

“Lord Jesus, Chief Shepherd of the flock, I consecrate myself to Your most Sacred Heart. From Your pierced Heart the Church was born, the Church You have called me, as a member of *Shepherds of Christ Associates*, to serve in a most special way. You reveal Your Heart as a symbol of Your love in all its aspects, including Your most special love for me, whom You have chosen as Your companion in this most

important work. Help me to always love You in return. Help me to give myself entirely to You. Help me always to pour out my life in love of God and neighbor! Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in You!

“Dear Blessed Virgin Mary, I consecrate myself to your maternal and Immaculate Heart, this Heart which is symbol of your life of love. You are the Mother of my Savior. You are also my Mother. You love me with a most special love as a member of *Shepherds of Christ Associates*, a movement created by your Son as a powerful instrument for the renewal of the Church and the world. In a return of love, I give myself entirely to your motherly love and protection. You followed Jesus perfectly. You are His first and perfect disciple. Teach me to imitate you in the putting on of Christ. Be my motherly intercessor so that, through your Immaculate Heart, I may be guided to an ever closer union with the pierced Heart of Jesus, Chief Shepherd of the flock.”

17. **Daily Prayers.** All members should say the Holy Spirit prayer daily and make the act of consecration daily. They should also pray the rosary each day. They are encouraged to use the other above prayers as time allows.