

# Turning to Christ Our Hope

## **An Hour of Prayer in HARD TIMES**

The men of (*ABC Parish*) are offering a special hour of prayer from 6am-to-7am on the first Friday of each month in 2009 to intercede for individuals and families who are suffering—economically and otherwise—in these difficult times. The first session will be held on (*date*); EVERYONE is invited. The early time slot is to accommodate commuters and others who need an early start. Perhaps the starkness of the pre-dawn hour also underscores that we seem to be entering an unusual epoch in American life.

Combining song, silent prayer, a short reflection, and a sharing of petitions for all our needs, this simple prayer initiative offers a practical way of responding with Christian faith and hope to the serious challenges that we face. Please join us in the (*meeting place*).

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# Service Roles for First-Friday Prayer

## **1) Prayer Facilitator (MC)**

(guides the sequence of the prayer service per the agreed schedule by prompting the opening song, silent prayer, reflection, petitions, and closing with the Our Father and final song.)

## **2) Song Leader**

(selects 2 songs for the start and 1 for the end, and leads the group in singing...or at least in getting started.)

## **3) Reading /Reflection Leader**

(selects a reading of some kind, in consultation with me, and presents a 5-minute reflection that supports the perspective of putting our hope in Christ, for all our needs.)

## **4) Petition Leader**

(reads the written petitions and perhaps adds one or two more, as appropriate...and then solicits personal petitions from the group.)

# **Prayer Facilitator's Order of the Hour**

(Facilitator prompts/leads as listed below, per indicated schedule)

**6:00am Prompt Opening Song(s)** (*selection & leading by Song Leader*)

**6:05am Prompt time of Silent Prayer**

**6:35am Prompt Reading/Reflection** (*presented by Reflection Leader, followed by Prompt of a few minutes for silent reflection*)

**6:45am Prompt time of Petition** (*led by Petition Leader*)

- a) written petitions are read
- b) oral petitions are invited from the group
- c) Petition Leader concludes (...all these things through Christ our Lord, Amen)

**6:50am Lead the Our Father, plus any final comment and announcements**

**6:55am Prompt Closing Song** (*selection and leading by Song Leader*)

**7:00am (this is the not-to-exceed ending time)**

## **Petition Leader -- prayer intentions:**

*(say, “The response to each petition is, ‘Lord, hear our prayer’”)*

- 1. For public leaders in the state of Michigan that they may act with wisdom, justice and integrity for the sake of the common good.  
We pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.***
  
- 2. For employers, that they may manage their companies well so as to sustain employment while serving markets in ways worthy of God’s Providence.  
We pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.***
  
- 3. For all our spiritual leaders of the Archdiocese of Detroit, that they may wisely guide the People of God and lead them courageously to Christ in these trying times.  
We pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.***
  
- 4. For all those men and women in our State who are unemployed or underemployed that they may find new work and turn to God with confident trust during this time of trial.  
We pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.***
  
- 5. For all families in our area that are undergoing financial and domestic stress—that they may humbly seek God’s help in providing for every need while preserving unity and peace in their homes.  
We pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.***

*(Here, the Petition Leader adds any other petition that he has prepared...)*

**For** \_\_\_\_\_

**We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.***

**“Now, we invite petitions from the group... “**

*(After each --) We pray to the Lord... **Lord, hear our prayer.***