



CONGREGATIO SANCTISSIMI REDEMPTORIS

PRAYER RESOURCE

*Leading, Encouraging, Caring and Reconciling:
Leadership as fraternal service for the mission of the Redeemer*

(Can be used for community prayer during the Chapter or an Elective Assembly)

1. INTRODUCTION

President: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: *Amen.*

(Hymn to the Holy Spirit)

President: Let us listen to the words of our Constitutions:

Constitution 92: "All members and communities must, in their own way, play an active and responsible role in the government of the Congregation in its different parts, making use of the various instruments of government with which it is provided. To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the sake of the common good (cf. 1 Cor. 12:7; cf. C. 72)."

President: Gathered as an apostolic community [in Chapter/Assembly], we recall that authority in the Congregation springs from the gift of the Spirit and is exercised for the common good and in service of the mission. Each person participates, according to his vocation, in building communion and discerning the path forward. Therefore, we ask for the grace to recognize and elect leaders who know how to:

All: *Lead according to the Spirit; Encourage missionary life with hope; Care attentively for the confreres and communities; Reconcile and strengthen communion in service of the mission.*

President: May this time of discernment purify our intentions, free us from personal interests and narrow perspectives, and conform us to the will of Christ, the Redeemer of the world.

All: *Amen.*

(Brief prayerful silence)

2. PRAYER

All: Lord Jesus Christ,
Good Shepherd and obedient Servant of the Father,
You who walk before your people and remain among them as one who serves, form in us a heart like yours.

Free us from the temptation to reduce leadership to human strategy, calculation or convenience.
Grant us the grace to seek only the good of the mission and fidelity to Apostolic Life.

Send upon this assembly your Spirit:
Spirit of discernment,

Spirit of communion,
Spirit of missionary courage,
Spirit of reconciliation.

May our decisions be born of prayer,
strengthened in dialogue,
and confirmed in interior peace.

All: *Amen.*

3. PROPOSALS FOR BIBLICAL TEXTS FOR MEDITATION (*feel free to choose any one or more*)

- **Mk 10:32–45** – “Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant.”
- **Jn 10:1–16** – “I am the Good Shepherd.”
- **Jn 21:15–19** – “Do you love me? Feed my lambs.”
- **Jn 13:1–15** – “If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”
- **1 Cor 12:4–7, 12** – Diversity of gifts, one Spirit.
- **1 Pet 5:1–5** – Tend the flock... not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

(Prayerful silence: 3–5 minutes

(Ubi Caritas Song - Taizé)

4. MEDITATION

Leading, Encouraging, Caring and Reconciling

1. Leading

Reader 1: Leading does not mean imposing paths, but keeping the community centred

on the mission. The Redemptorist leader constantly reminds us that everything is ordered towards evangelization and the *Copiosa Redemptio*. He does not govern to preserve structures, but to serve the mission.

2. Encouraging

Reader 2: To encourage is to awaken hope, strengthen co-responsibility, and foster spaces of sincere listening and communal discernment. Redemptorist authority is lived in a spirit of collegiality: a Redemptorist Superior dialogues, consults, shares responsibility, and gratefully acknowledges the gifts that the Spirit distributes for the common good.

3. Caring

Reader 3: To care is to recognize each confrere in his uniqueness, to support the most fragile, and to safeguard fraternal communion. The Redemptorist Superior is a confrere among confreres, a guardian of unity: a good shepherd who guides, a Samaritan who heals, and a confrere who corrects with charity in order to strengthen the common mission.

4. Reconciling

Reader 4: To reconcile is to heal divisions, overcome polarization, and restore mutual trust. Fraternal leadership builds bridges, generates unity, and strengthens missionary communion.

(Brief silence)

5. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION (*personal or in small groups*)

- Do we seek leaders according to the heart of Christ, or according to our own human preferences?
- Do our structures truly foster co-responsibility and attentive listening to the Spirit?
- What threats place communion and solidarity at risk in our Unit today?

(Time of quiet reflection or brief sharing)

6. PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

President: Dear Confreres, trusting in the action of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church and sustains our Congregation in fidelity to the mission, and gathered as an apostolic community, aware that all authority is service to the Kingdom, let us raise our prayers to the Lord.

May He enlighten this time of discernment, purify our intentions, and strengthen our fraternal communion.

All: *Lord, guide us by your Spirit.*

- For the Pope, for the Church, and for the entire Congregation, that authority may always be lived as humble service to the mission, we pray to the Lord.
- For all of us, called to discern our leadership, that the Lord may raise up among us confreres capable of leading according to the Spirit, encouraging missionary life with hope, caring for the confreres with fraternal solicitude, and reconciling hearts in communion; and that every exercise of authority may be true service to the mission of the Redeemer, we pray to the Lord.

- For the (Vice)Province that is living this time of election and discernment, that, docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, it may choose leaders according to the heart of Christ, we pray to the Lord.
- For the capitulars and the members of this Assembly, that they may vote with interior freedom and upright intention, we pray to the Lord.
- For those who will be called to the service of leadership, that they may be shepherds after the heart of Christ, we pray to the Lord.
- For our elderly, sick, or discouraged confreres, that they may find in their leaders support and fraternal closeness, we pray to the Lord.
- That our Unit may live in true missionary solidarity with the more fragile parts of the Congregation, we pray to the Lord.
- That the Holy Spirit may grant us discernment, interior freedom, and deep communion, we pray to the Lord.

President: Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, you have called us to live as confreres and missionaries in the service of Abundant Redemption. Grant our leaders a servant's heart, attentive to your will and docile to the Spirit. Give them wisdom to exercise authority in a spirit of communion, courage to promote co-responsibility, and humility always to discern in favour of the mission. May our communities grow in unity, solidarity, and fraternal love, so that, animated by leadership according to your Heart, we may be living signs of your presence among your people.

All: *Amen.*

7. FINAL PRAYER OF DISCERNMENT

Holy Spirit,
source of unity and mission,
You who distribute gifts
for the common good,
pour out upon us
light to understand,
wisdom to decide,
strength to act.

Grant us leaders
who know how to lead with clarity,
encourage with hope,
care with tenderness,
and reconcile with humility.

May our unity
not close in on itself,
but live in solidarity with the whole
Congregation
and with the Church.

May we be
a community for mission,
a fraternity for the world,
a living sign of Abundant Redemption.
Through Christ our Redeemer.

All: *Amen.*

Our Father...

8. CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord God, Father of mercy, you have gathered us as an apostolic community to discern more faithfully and to serve more generously the mission of the Redeemer. Receive the prayer we offer you in this time of election for the service of Redemptorist apostolic life. Purify our intentions, confirm

us in unity, strengthen us in charity, and grant that all we decide here may be for your glory and for the good of your people. Grant us the grace to lead according to your Spirit, to encourage with hope, to care with fraternal tenderness, and to reconcile with humility, so that our Congregation may always be a living sign of Abundant Redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

9. FINAL BLESSING

(Song to the Virgin Mary)

