

Love poured forth for life



L'amore effuso per la vita

Credible Witnesses: Called in love to bring forth the Kingdom of God

Opening Song:

Leader: God of Peace,

All: Call us to be peace makers.

Jesus, Word of truth and life,

All: Call us to live your Gospel.

Spirit of God, **All: Come, fill our hearts with the fire of your Love.**

Opening Comment: This final night of sharing prayer, of remembering the lives of our five Martyrs of Charity, celebrating their lives among the Liberian people while honoring their faithfulness to God's call that brought them to pour out their lives and their blood on the soil of Liberia we know that it is not enough to simply pray for them. Their ultimate gift is a seed planted in the soil of Liberia so that we might be connected around the world with the suffering of God's people, with the brokenness of life and families caught in wars and civil unrest and so many injustices.

It is not enough to just hear about the credible witnesses that our Sisters were and continue to be, we, too, are to be credible witnesses to God's faithful and generous love in our lives. Archbishop James Kelleher (+) said at the commemoration of their deaths in 1992, "What these five women are telling us today is simply this...you, too, have a holy mission that comes out of your Baptism; that is, out of your intimate relationship with the Spirit of Jesus who leads you where it seems to fit...that you might bring the love of God to bear on those most distant and difficult places in your own world." Where or to whom are you being called bring God's love?

God's Word calls us to be credible witnesses: Philippians 2: 1, 2, 4-11

Leader: Good and gracious God, we pray, we remember, we celebrate the lives of our five Martyrs of Charity. With them, "who have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb," we pray for the courage to answer your call with our lives.

Voice: We call to mind our Sister Barbara Ann, always the healer. Whether responding to an individual's pain and suffering or to the humanitarian works of mercy, she labored to bring healing and hope to those she encountered along the paths of life.

**Rif: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring for the City of God.**

Voice: We call to mind our Sister Shirley: always the inspired and inspiring teacher among us. Through her restless, creative zeal, she called forth the best from others as well as from herself, so aware that the work of the kingdom was never done. **Response:**

**Rif: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring for the City of God.**

Voice: We call to mind our Sister Agnes: always open to any way to serve. Besides the many tasks that came her way, she reached out especially to women and girls to strengthen their faith and feed the flame of their love through her faith sharing and her ministry of reconciliation. **Response:**

**Rif: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring for the City of God.**

Voice: We remember Sister Kathleen: always the lover of peace and reconciliation. Through her deep attachment to the oneness of us all, she walked gently on the earth...sometimes with fire, a messenger and an example of the all-inclusive love of Christ, welcoming not “the stranger” but all as “friend.” **Response:**

**Rif: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring for the City of God.**

Voice: We remember Sister Mary Joél: always the teacher and peaceful presence. Her gentle approach and welcoming smile opened the hearts and minds to know, indeed, that God does live among us and continues to love all people with an unconditional love. **Response:**

**Rif: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring for the City of God.**

We celebrate the lives of the Martyrs of Charity and all women who work for justice and peace in our world...

*Women of the Lord,
women who laugh and dance and sing,
women who are not so conscious of what we have given,
but rather of what we have been given,*

*women who are struggling for justice,
women who are faithful to prayer,
women whom the Spirit continues to disturb,
women who are warm-hearted –
with a great capacity to accept and forgive all,
mindful that we all belong to the same human
but wonderful family.*
S. Shirley Kolmer

Credible Witness of Today...

Invoking God Grace:

Leader: O God, you have inspired many to follow Jesus, your Incarnate Word, who gave his life unconditionally to all people that they may have life to the fullest.

We lift our voices in praise and gratitude as we sing:

***Rit:** Magnificat, magnificat, anima mea, Dominun
Magnificat, magnificat, anima mea, Dominun*

Through the witness of the Martyrs of Charity may we be inspired to reach across the boundaries that separate us and to work for peace and just distribution of resources for all peoples. With Mary we proclaim...

***Rit:** Magnificat, magnificat, anima mea, Dominun
Magnificat, magnificat, anima mea, Dominun*

For all the peoples of the world, especially the children who carry in the hearts, minds and souls the terror of war that they may begin to know the healing love of the God of peace through our care and compassion extended to those we encounter. We proclaim with Mary...

***Rit:** Magnificat, magnificat, anima mea, Dominun*

Magnificat, magnificat, anima mea, Dominun

For the many people who have died in wars and civil conflict, for those who are displaced because of the wars in their lands, we proclaim with Mary...

*Rit: Magnificat, magnificat, anima mea, Dominun
Magnificat, magnificat, anima mea, Dominun*

Quietly we place before our God of Compassion the needs that we hold within our hearts...

Trusting in God's Provident care we pray in the words that Jesus gave us...Our Father

Renewal of Commitment: We are called by the Gospel to lives of peace and justice, reaching out as Jesus did to those on the margins. We are inspired by the lives of the Martyrs of Charity, who chose to be among and with those struggling for peace and justice in Liberia.

We also have heard the call to be credible and courageous witnesses in our Church and in the world today wherever that need may be, wherever our charism of reconciliation is needed...I invite those who are willing to recommit their lives to this call to gospel living to remain standing and proclaim this commitment of renewal.

Together:

*With trust in Your faithfulness to us, O God,
we renew our covenant love
with You and one another.*

*You brought us near through the blood of your Son Jesus.
May we be streams of God's mercy and compassion,*

ministers of reconciliation and hope, advocates for the poor and suffering.

*We commit ourselves anew
this day to work ever more courageously
to bring "that beautiful order of things that the great Son of God
came to establish in His Blood."
May God keep this will in us through the intercession
of St. Maria De Mattias. Amen.*

**Rit: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring for the City of God.**