

**CCA Prayer Walk at the Arizona Capitol
Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza
April 23, 2016**

Litany of Prayer for our Government

I. At the Flags

A. We Pray for our State.

A Prayer for Sound Government

**O Lord our Governor,
bless the leaders of our land,
that we may be a people at peace among ourselves
and a blessing to other states and nations of the earth.
Lord, keep this state under your care.**

To all who have executive authority
and to all who have administrative authority,
grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.
Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To those who make our laws
give courage, wisdom, and foresight
to provide for the needs of all our people,
and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.
Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts
give understanding and integrity,
that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.
Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

**..Teach your people to rely on your strength
and to accept our responsibilities to our fellow citizens,
that we may elect trustworthy leaders
and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society;
that we may serve you faithfully in our generation
and honor your holy Name.
For yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.**

~ adapted from the **The Mission of St. Clare** website. <http://www.missionstclare.com/>

B. We Pray for Law Enforcement

We Pray and ask the Lord...for the protection of our police and firefighters in our state.
We pray for peace, protection and strength in their homes and marriages. (*Psalms 91:1-16*)
We Pray and ask the Lord...for angelic protection as they are the first responders in any crisis situation.

We Pray and ask the Lord...to sustain the mental, physical and emotional and spiritual well-being of our first responders, especially as they are on high alert.

We Pray and ask the Lord...for our police and firefighters to make wise choices that will bring forth the greatest good in all situations.

We Pray and ask the Lord... they would have compassion for the people they serve and respond accordingly; and that the people they serve will in turn show respect.

We Pray and ask the Lord...they would exhibit integrity, honesty and dedication. May they have spiritual fortitude and strength to be honest, dedicated and individuals of integrity.

– adapted from the Book of Blessings, #587, by Diana Macalintal

C. We Pray for the Department of Child Safety

For Families

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sets the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech you, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

For Young Persons

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

II. At the Supreme Court of Arizona.

For Courts of Justice

Almighty God, who sits in the throne judging right: We humbly beseech you to bless the courts of justice and the magistrates in all this land; and give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of you alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

III. At the Departments of (A) Education; (B) Corrections; (C) Economic Security

A. We pray for Schools and Colleges

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities [and especially those in Arizona], that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

B. For Prisons and Correctional Institutions

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice.

Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. **Amen.**

C. For the Unemployed

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

IV. At the Courtyard of the State Legislature.

Prayer

(inspired by Matthew 23:11-12, 1 Timothy 2:2)

**Lord of the universe and leader of your people,
give wisdom to all those who exercise authority.
Teach them to put the good of the many before the greed of the few.
Help them to love truth and to hate falsehood and corruption,
and, above all, urge them to remember
that the one who would be greatest
must learn to be the servant of all;
for Christ's sake. Amen.**

~ written by Michael Saward, and posted on The Jubilate
Group website.http://www.jubilate.co.uk/liturgy/liturgy/prayer_about_oppression

Our Father, bless, we pray You, the leaders of this nation [and this state]. Strengthen the courage of the representatives in Congress [and the Legislature] assembled – sincere men and women who want to do the right, if only they can be sure what is right. Make it plain to them, O Lord. And then will You start them out on the right way, for You know that we are hard to turn.

Forgive them for the blunders they have committed, the compromises they have made.

Give to them the courage to admit mistakes. Take away from us as a nation and as individuals that stubborn pride which, followed by conceit, imagines itself to be above and beyond criticism.

Save our leaders, O God, from themselves and from their friends – even as You have saved them from their enemies. Let no personal ambition blind them to their opportunities. Help them to give battle to hypocrisy wherever they find it. Give them divine common sense and a selflessness that shall make them think of service and not of gain.

May they have the courage to lead the people of this Republic [and this state], considering unworthy the expediency of following the people. Save them from the folly of man-made schemes and plans. Give to them the faith and the courage together to seek God's inspired

plan and, finding it, to propose it, knowing that when it is God-inspired, You will open the way for it through all obstacles.

As You have made and preserved us a nation, so now mold us into a people more worthy of a great heritage. In Your strong name we make these prayers. **Amen.** -Peter Marshall

V. For the (A) Press; (B) Taxpayers; (C) Cities/Towns/Counties

A. For those who Influence Public Opinion

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

B. Stewardship Prayer

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that Yours is "the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

http://www.archchicago.org/departments/stewardship_dev/pdf/theology_scripture/prayers.pdf

C. Cities, Towns, Counties

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send upon those who hold office in [the counties, towns and cities of] this State the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of our communities in the election of officials and representatives; that by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Christ, when you came among us, you proclaimed the kingdom of God in villages, towns, and lonely places: Grant that your presence and power may be known throughout this land. Have mercy upon all who live and work in rural areas and grant that all the people of our nation may give thanks to you for food and drink and all other bodily necessities of life, respect those who labor to produce them, and honor the land and the water from which these good things come. All this we ask in your holy Name. **Amen.**

VI. At the Departments of Health and Agriculture.

For the Sick

Heavenly father, giver of life and health; comfort and relieve your servants who are ill, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

-Monte Nabors

For Agriculture

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant

that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Christ, when you came among us, you proclaimed the kingdom of God in villages, towns, and lonely places: Grant that your presence and power may be known throughout this land. Have mercy upon all who live and work in rural areas; and grant that all the people of [our state and] our nation may give thanks to you for food and drink and all other bodily necessities of life, respect those who labor to produce them, and honor the land and the water from which these good things come. All this we ask in your holy Name. **Amen.**

VII. At the Military Memorials and The Ten Commandments.

A. *For those in the Armed Forces of our Country*

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which face them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

B. *Prayer for our Nation*

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bless the leaders of our land,
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and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

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