



A Catholic Worker Chaplet

The Chaplet can be prayed as a “rosary” with five decades, each decade with a corresponding readings from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Other scriptural readings could be substituted, such as, for example, Romans 12, a favorite of Dorothy Day, or Matthew 25:31-46. If so desired, a brief reading from the writings of Dorothy or Peter Maurin could also be added after the scriptural reading of the fifth decade.

If used in a group, an Officiant is appointed to lead the prayers, and the rest recites the parts which are in italics. The readings could be read by either the Officiant, or another appointed person.

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Lord, open + our lips;
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be (*said by all*)

[At the beginning of each decade is said:]

“Our manifesto is the Sermon on the Mount...” (Dorothy Day)
Amen. Lord, incline our hearts to keep your Law.

[At each bead of the decade, a Beatitude is announced followed by a corresponding brief prayer response.]

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Amen. Lord, make us poor in spirit.

2. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Amen. Lord, make us meek and gentle.

3. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Amen. Lord, make us mourn our evil deeds.

4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Amen. Lord, make us hunger and thirst for justice.

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Amen. Lord, make us merciful and compassionate.

6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Amen. Lord, make us pure in heart.

7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Amen. Lord, make us peacemakers.

8. Blessed are the persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Amen. Lord, make us ready for the time of trial.

9. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you, and utter all kinds of evil falsely on my account.

Amen. Lord, make us faithful to you and your Gospel.

10. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven, for many have persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Amen. Lord, make us joyful and glad in bearing witness to you.

Reading(s) [After each reading, a brief silence may be kept.]

After the first decade: "...[W]hen you give alms... your almsgiving must be secret...when you pray, go to your private room, shut yourself in and so pray to your Father who is in that secret place... when you fast...no one will know you are fasting except your Father." (Mt. 6:3, 6; 17-18) Thanks be to God.

After the second decade: "Do not store up treasures for yourself on earth, where moth and woodworm destroy them. But store up treasures for yourself in heaven, where neither moth nor woodworm destroys them and thieves break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be, too... No one can be a slave of two masters; one will either hate the first and love the second or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money. That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you who have so little faith? So do not worry; do not say, 'What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?' It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Mt. 6: 19-21; 24—34) Thanks be to God.

After the third decade: "[I]f you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother [or sister] has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother [or sister] first, and then come back and present your offering...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... [I]f you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours." (Mt. 5:23-24, 44; 6:14). Thanks be to God.

After the fourth decade: "It is not anyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Mt. 6:21) Thanks be to God.

After the fifth decade: "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world... your light must shine in people's sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven... You must [...] be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt. 5: 13, 14, 16, 48) Thanks be to God.

Concluding Prayers

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer (*prayed by all*)

Lord, hear our prayer;
And let our cry come to you.

Let us pray.

A Prayer Attributed to Saint Francis (prayed by all)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace;
where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal Life.
Amen.

The following Prayer for the Canonization of Dorothy Day may be said.

God our Creator,
Your servant Dorothy Day exemplified the
Catholic faith by her conversion,
life of prayer and voluntary poverty,
works of mercy, and
witness to the justice and peace
of the Gospel.
May her life
inspire people
to turn to Christ as their savior and guide,
to see his face in the world's poor and
to raise their voices for the justice
of God's kingdom.
We pray that you grant the favors we ask
through her intercession so that her goodness
and holiness may be more widely recognized
and one day the Church may
proclaim her Saint.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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The words of the Beatitudes are from the New Revised Standard Version and the readings are from the New Jerusalem Bible. The Prayer for the Canonization of Dorothy Day is from the Dorothy Day Guild (<https://www.dorothydayguild.org/about-us>), and this version is taken from the Catholic Worker website (<https://catholicworker.org/prayers-for-the-canonization-of-dorothy-day/>).

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Nazareth House (Bahay Nazareth) is an ecumenical house of hospitality rooted in the spirit of the worldwide Catholic Worker Movement founded by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in 1933. We seek to embody the Gospel ideals of unceasing prayer, corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which include acts of non-violent peace and justice, solidarity with the poor, radical hospitality, and life in community. Located in Manila, Philippines, we are not a social service or a registered charitable institution, nor a not for profit corporation but simply a group of Christians who feel called to an apostolic ministry of providing shelter to persons living with HIV or AIDS who do not have adequate financial means for housing, and who are unable to secure assistance from any source. We are LGBTQI friendly.

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