

## **UNIVERSAL PRAYER / PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL / GENERAL INTERCESSIONS / PETITIONS**

*All of the above are titles for the same part of the liturgy, most commonly referred to as the UNIVERSAL PRAYER. Formerly, they were often referred to as the General Intercessions or the Petitions. You may select some to read them from the ambo, or they can simply be read by the priest or deacon. These are available in the RITE of Marriage, (the ritual/rite book the deacon or priest uses). They know what this is, and you can just instruct the presider to 'lead the Universal Prayer'. Below are the directives for this part of the mass. After these directives, I am including a sample set.*

*From the **General Instruction of the Roman Missal**:*

**69.** In the Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful, the people respond in some sense to the Word of God which they have received in faith and, exercising the office of their baptismal Priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all. It is desirable that there usually be such a form of prayer in Masses celebrated with the people, so that petitions may be offered for holy Church, for those who govern with authority over us, for those weighed down by various needs, for all humanity, and for the salvation of the whole world.

**70.** The series of intentions is usually to be:

- a) for the needs of the Church;
- b) for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world;
- c) for those burdened by any kind of difficulty;
- d) for the sick and for the deceased, esp. family members no longer with us
- e) for this couple and those gathered here
- f) for the local community

Nevertheless, in any particular celebration, such as a Confirmation, a Marriage, or at a Funeral, the series of intentions may be concerned more closely with the particular occasion.

**71.** It is for the Priest Celebrant to regulate this prayer from the chair. He himself begins it with a brief introduction, by which he

calls upon the faithful to pray, and likewise he concludes it with an oration. The intentions announced should be sober, be composed with a wise liberty and in few words, and they should be expressive of the prayer of the entire community.

They are announced from the ambo or from another suitable place, by the Deacon or by a cantor, a reader, or one of the lay faithful.

The people, for their part, stand and give expression to their prayer either by an invocation said in common after each intention or by praying in silence.

## **SAMPLE UNIVERSAL PRAYER - INTERCESSIONS**

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER / GENERAL INTERCESSIONS / PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL PETITIONS

Presider (PRIEST): Filled with Joy of this celebration, we bring before God our prayers for N. and N. , for the church and for the world.

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

1. For the Church throughout the world, her ministers and followers; Like the wedding guests at Cana, may we be the gracious recipients of the miraculous love and providence of our Lord, in faith, we pray ...

**Lord, hear our prayer....**

2. For our nation and this city; for those who serve in our government, in our military and in civil service; We pray especially for the safety and welfare of first responders, and all who stand in harm's way to protect and defend the lives of others, in faith we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer....**

3. For the poor, the homeless, the unemployed and those who live without life's basic necessities; We pray especially for those living in terror and fear; May the Prince of Peace be near to them and bless them with hope , in faith we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer....**

For N. and N. and all married couples, especially those gathered here in love and support of them; May your love deepen with each passing day and may you be abundantly blessed in the treasures that last; faith, hope and love; in faith we pray...

**Lord, hear our prayer....**

4. For the parents and families of N. and N., for their godparents, and for all who nurtured them in faith and in love; May they continue to be an inspiration of love and faith to us all, in faith we pray....

**Lord, hear our prayer....**

5. For those who are sick, especially our loved ones; May they be blessed with comfort, hope and healing, in faith we pray....

**Lord, hear our prayer....**

6. For the deceased relatives of N. & N.; **and all we remember in love**, especially ..... Although gone from our sight, we feel the presence of their Spirit and hold them forever in our hearts, in faith we pray....

**Lord, hear our prayer....**

**Presider: Gracious God, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, poured forth blessings on the wedding couple at Cana. Look with kindness on N. and N. , as they pledge their lives to one another in the presence of your church. May they cherish one another and be heartened by our love. Through them, may your church be blessed. We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**+All: Amen.**