



# Closing Prayer

*Begin by playing the song “Scandal of Love,” by Greg Walton, from the Scandal of Mercy album. After the song has played for about a minute, lower the volume just enough so the readers can be heard. Cue the readers to begin.*

**Reader 1:** The Gospel of John affirms that God is love. This love has now been made obvious and real in Jesus’ whole life. He is nothing but love, a love given freely. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him show us something unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially for sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering—all these signs are meant to teach mercy. Everything in Jesus speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is without compassion. Jesus, seeing the crowds of people who followed him, realized that they were tired and exhausted, lost and without a guide, and he felt deep compassion for them. He healed the sick who were presented to him, and with just a few loaves of bread and fish he satisfied the enormous crowd. What moved Jesus in all of these situations was mercy, with which he read the hearts of those he encountered and responded to their deepest needs.

*Pause.*

**Reader 2:** On June 5, 2014, Pope Francis tweeted, “Like the Good Samaritan, may we not be ashamed of touching the wounds of those who suffer, but try to heal them with concrete acts of love.”

*Pause.*

**Reader 3:** From a Confirmation homily given by Pope Francis:

Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide. Pay attention, my young friends: to go against the current; this is good for the heart, but we need courage to swim against the tide. Jesus gives us this courage! . . . With him we can do great things; he will give us the joy of being his disciples, his witnesses. Commit yourselves to great ideals, to the most important things. We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals.

*Pause.*

**Reader 1:** Take a moment to think about everything we have experienced in our Confirmation process. From all of that—the material we learned, our retreat, our service day, our times together—what lesson, what value or insight, do you most want to remember? What is it that you want to take away from this experience and carry out into the world?

**Reader 2:** We invite you now to come forward a few at a time and choose a keepsake from the table that represents what you want to remember from Confirmation and carry out in your own life.

*Turn the music back up until all the young people have come forward, and then lower the volume as the readers begin again.*



**Reader 2:** We leave this place, not alone, but connected—to one another, to our church, to the Gospel, to Christ who binds all things through his Spirit. Our call to mercy doesn't end here. Our call to a merciful life is just beginning.

**Reader 3:** Dear God, help us to remember:

The generosity of the Good Samaritan,

The holiness of our sponsors and saints,

The lessons we have learned and the love and friendship we have shared.

Help us to always be people who “do what we believe,”

To always reach out to the people in the shadows,

To be your mercy in the world.

We pray in Jesus' name.

**All:** Amen.

**Adult leader:** Before we go, let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

(The quotation from Pope Francis's Confirmation homily on this handout is from Homily at the Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation, April 28, 2013, at [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130428\\_omelia-cresime.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130428_omelia-cresime.html). Copyright © LEV.)

