



Opening Prayer

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Leader 1: “The way of the Church is precisely to leave her four walls behind and to go out in search of those who are distant, those essentially on the ‘outskirts’ of life.” —Pope Francis (homily at Mass with new cardinals, February 15, 2015)

Leader 2: God of mercy, be with us as we leave the four walls behind. Give us the courage to do what we believe and to live out Jesus’ mission in the world.

Leader 3: Be with us as we move beyond the sanctuary and reach out to our neighbors in need. Give us courage to leave the ordinary, safe bounds of society and to be “scandalous” as we break down the walls of division in care for our neighbors.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:34–40

Reader 1: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

“The king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’”

Reader 2: “Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’”

Reader 1: “And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Reader 2: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(The quotation by Pope Francis on this handout is from his homily at Mass with new cardinals, February 15, 2015, at https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20150215_omelia-nuovi-cardinali.html. Copyright [LEV].

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