**Closing Prayer Service**

*All the little candles are lit and are on a table in front of the Altar and the Christ candle is lit. Basket of “gifts" is in front of the candles*

**Opening Song:** Christ Be Our Light

*Reflection:*

We began this workshop with a meditation on our gifts. However, we have received many gifts ourselves by being here. The Holy Spirit has been the bringer of gifts. He has been the “silent" partner in our meditations and conversations. Have you felt His fire in you? With others?

An image of a light of fire has been used extensively in our heritage. At our Baptism the light of Christ was entrusted to you through the baptismal candle. At our Profession, we each held a lit candle symbolizing the light of Christ in the world. We were directed to let our lights shine before all so that they may see goodness in our acts and give praise to our heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit has been described as a "rushing wind" and a “tongue of fire.” We have experienced both during this weekend.

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-4**

*“ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”*

*Reflection:* In the upper room after the death of Jesus, the apostles gathered scared and directionless. The rush of a violent wind heralded the coming of the Holy Spirit. Tongues of fire settled upon each one of them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit! They were directionless no more! The Holy Spirit gave them the “ability” to speak to others in different languages. They were so filled with God’s love that they had the courage to go out to all peoples of the world.

The Holy Spirit is with our Order! He cares for it and for us. The Holy Spirit will give us the ability to “speak in other languages." He will guide our path. He will make straight His way. He will lead us to what He wants us to do for His Order. Have confidence in the way of the Lord!

This flame of the Holy Spirit depicts God’s love for us, unquenchable and enduring. We have seen that “fire” among us this weekend. We, ourselves become “aflame” with the fire of God as we share with others our spiritual life and how God has done good things for us.

So it is fitting that we end this night by once again claiming Christ as our Light, and by sharing another fire- the fire of spiritual friendship.

Now let us all come forward, take a name from the basket and a candle from the altar – and form circle around altar.

*All process forward and take a paper from the basket and a lit candle from the table.*

“Make Me an Instrument” is sung as all process.

*Leader: (when all are gathered)*

Let us thank God for his light within us and among us.

Let us thank God for the gift of each other.

Let us pray:

• for the person whose gift you hold –

• for each other

• and our Order as we undertake this re-visioning of our Order.

We pray that God’s light in us, can shine forth from our lives and touch our families, our friends and those in need. May we be united in faith as we ask for these blessings.

*Intercessions:*

Let us pray silently for one another during the journey of re-visualizing what our Order can be. (silent prayer)

*Optional Intercessions:*

• That we cherish our Order as our precious home and fraternity….

• That we both honor our past and embrace the future…

• That we become the “flame” you want us to be….

• That we may continue to discern God’s directed path for our Order …...

• That we may offer our gifts to God as an oblation to Him…

• That we may welcome the many gifts that our brothers and sisters in the Order bring to the table….

• In thanksgiving for this workshop and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit …

**Our Father**

**Final Blessing**

**Song:** “Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning…”

FFG:8/18