## National Visioning

## Workshop Opening Prayer

**Opening Prayer:**

***Focusing Image****:* Mary Magdalene at the feet of Jesus (John 12: 1-3)

**John 12: 1-3**

“Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.”

**Meditation:**

Jesus at a private house among friends, a dinner party. There is Jesus, relaxed and happy to be with friends. They just eaten their fill so they were relaxed and talking quietly. The women were in the kitchen cleaning up. But Mary saw this liter of oil, which she was saving, and impulsively decided to use it on Jesus’ feet, which were worn and cracked from traveling so far.

Mary brought the oil to Jesus and started using it to massage his feet! Ahhhh! What luxury! What a gift to sore, worn out feet! Imagine that for a second! The sweet aroma of the oil spread throughout the room! How relaxing! How comforting!

Can you imagine how Jesus must have looked upon Mary? With gratitude? With love shining in His eyes! Be there for a moment and soak in what it must have meant for Mary.

Think of how Jesus would look at you when you bring Him your gifts.

Now think of your gifts:

* What is the gift that *you* most want to give to Jesus?
* How do you want to serve Him?
* At your profession, you offered your life to Jesus, and made it an oblation to Him to use as He wills. Are you ready to do this?
* How can you give “more” to Jesus? What is holding you back?
* What is *your* most precious *gift for Jesus?*
* *W*hat is *your* precious gift to the Order?

Now imagine the face of Jesus when you give Him your gift. Stay with this image for a while and when you are ready, come back from the meditation.

(Leader will gauge when to bring the meditation to a close.)

**Let us pray as Jesus taught us**: Our Father….

Now please write your one “gift" on your paper with your name.

Song: “**These Alone Are Enough”**

Gifts are collected (2 baskets) and combined in one basket.

*Brother Alexander will bring the basket of gifts to the altar.*

"Our written gifts will remain at the altar this weekend as part of our common offering. Let us keep these “gifts” in prayer as we move through this time of visioning. “

Hail Mary

**Final Blessing**

FFG:8/18