

Opening and Closing Prayers for Fraternity Meetings and Gatherings



The prayers suggested below are given only as examples.

❖ Opening Prayers

When the members have gathered together in a suitable place, before any business is taken up, the minister of the fraternity may begin the community prayer in a manner similar to this.

Minister:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Rx: Amen.

Minister:

**Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory,
and the honor, and all blessing.¹⁹**

Rx: Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.²⁰

¹⁹ Saint Francis of Assisi, “Canticle of the Creatures” in *FA:ED* 1:113.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 114.

 **Closing Prayers**

If it is opportune, there may be a time for spontaneous prayer or for intercessions for the general needs of the Church and the particular needs of the fraternity. Then the minister of the fraternity offers a prayer of Saint Francis, for example one of those below (See also Appendix I):

Minister:

Let us pray. (Pause)

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God,
give us miserable ones
the grace to do for You alone
what we know You want us to do
and always to desire what pleases You.
Inwardly cleansed,
interiorly enlightened
and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit,
may we be able to follow
in the footprints of Your beloved Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
and, by Your grace alone,
may we make our way to You,
Most High,
Who live and rule
in perfect Trinity and simple Unity,
and are glorified
God almighty,
forever and ever.²³

R̄: Amen.

Or,

²³ Saint Francis of Assisi, "A Letter to the Entire Order" in *FA:ED* 1:120-121.

Let us pray. (Pause)

**Most generous God,
you are the giver of peace and the lover of charity.
Grant to us your people true harmony with your will,
and help us to overcome all temptations
that could disturb our peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

R: Amen.

If the spiritual assistant is a priest or deacon, he concludes the prayer by conferring the traditional blessing of Saint Francis. If the spiritual assistant is not ordained, any priest or deacon present should be invited to confer the blessing.

Priest or Deacon:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

R: Amen.

**May his face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.**

R: Amen.

**May he look upon you with kindness,
and give you his peace.**

R: Amen.

**May the Lord bless you,
+ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

R: Amen.

In the absence of a priest or deacon, the presider concludes by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross.

Presider:

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

May his face shine upon us,
and be gracious to us.

May the Lord bless us,
and give us his peace.

R: Amen.

**National Prayer for Vocations to the
Secular Franciscan Order**

**O Good and Gracious God,
God of mercy, compassion, generosity, and love,
as we live our lives today in the model of St.**

Francis,

choosing daily to live the Gospel life,

Help us to help others hear Your call.

Help us to help others to recognize

their vocation as a Secular Franciscan

that You have already planted in their

**heart. Help us, so that together we all may work
to bring the Gospel to life. Amen!**

Composed by Marian R. Crosby, OFS
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in Scottsdale AZ