

MINISTRY LEADERS' PRAYER FOR USE AT MEETINGS – May 2017

Leader: Opening/Introduction

Today, we take a moment and settle ourselves...to calm our fears and anxieties...to still the turbulence in our life and pray through the intercession of St. Rita as together we pray our St. Rita Parish Prayer:

All: *St Rita Parish Prayer:*

Lord,

Thank you for the rich history you have bestowed on our faith community.

Blessed by your constant grace and the intercession of St. Rita,

we ask that you be present in our parish and in our lives.

Build us into a community of mercy, compassion, and forgiveness, and

send us out into the world proclaiming the Good News of Christ crucified.

Dearest St. Rita,

you became a rose in the garden of Christ

because of your love for him on the cross.

Pray for us, especially in times of trial and anguish,

that we may always know God's love.

Amen.

The month of May finds us continuing our celebration of Easter and brings us to the brink of Pentecost which occurs on the first Sunday of June. During our Sunday celebrations in May the Church offers insights on the development of the earliest Christian communities with readings from the Acts of the Apostles.

For the Resurrection of Jesus to have meaning we must see and hear a call to action, in our lives and in our community. The Apostles, timid and uneducated men, began to boldly proclaim Jesus Christ and what He means to them and to the community. There is a growing message of repentance and conversion of heart; there is a recognition that the community must serve all equally well; that the Good News of Jesus Christ must be extended beyond the current community; and that with Jesus' Ascension into heaven that His work on earth is not completed and that those who follow Jesus are to carry on what He had begun.

In reflecting on these themes of the Acts of the Apostles: What difference does the Resurrection of Jesus make in your life? Is there a call, or renewed call to action on His behalf?

How will you proclaim him more boldly in thought, word, and deed?

As a ministry leader at St. Rita:

- How will you bring the new life of Resurrection to those who serve this community?
- How will the Good News of the Resurrection be reflected in the lives and actions and call to service of those who are engaged in ministry?
- How will the ministry in which you work extend its reach to those underserved in our community, and who are the underserved?
- How will the actions of those in ministry reach beyond those you traditionally serve?

Litany: Let us seek the intercession of St Rita in our life
(Leader say first part and people say *italicized part*)

Lord have mercy...**Lord have mercy**

Christ have mercy...**Christ have mercy**

Lord have mercy...**Lord have mercy**

Christ hear us...**Christ hear us**

Christ graciously hear us...**Christ graciously hear us**

Glorious St. Rita...**pray for us**

St. Rita, mirror of Christian spouses...**pray for us**

St. Rita, heroic in sacrifice...**pray for us**

St. Rita, generous in forgiving...**pray for us**

St. Rita, advocate of the impossible...**pray for us**

St. Rita, patroness of desperate cases...**pray for us**

St. Rita, consumed by the Passion of Christ...**pray for us**

St. Rita, pierced by a thorn...**pray for us**

St. Rita... **obtain for me the grace to faithfully fulfill the duties of my state in life**

St. Rita... **obtain for me the grace to be satisfied with the lot in life to which God has called me**

St. Rita... **obtain for me a spirit of patience and strength in adversity**

St. Rita... **obtain for me total detachment from the things of this world and fix all my affections and desires on heavenly treasures**

St. Rita... **obtain for me health of soul and body**

St. Rita...**obtain for me the favors I ask through you**

St. Rita... **obtain for me the graces to suffer with resignation the troubles of this life, and protect me in all my needs**

Let us pray:

Glorious St. Rita, patroness of our parish, we seek your intercession in our life. We ask that you show us how to love the Lord our God and how to proclaim the love of Christ crucified. We ask that we may be like you as an instrument of God's peace, and through your example give our lives to Him unconditionally.

St Rita of Cascia... **pray for us.**

Amen