
 FOREWORD 

Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.

—Luke 11:1

On the Notre Dame campus and throughout the world, I have found that young people have maintained the same deep yearning for a full and profoundly meaningful connection with God that the apostles displayed in their request to Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray.” They, in deep communion with people of every place and age, express a hunger for prayer that is often coupled with feelings of dissatisfaction with their present prayer life. I can imagine that our young Notre Dame graduates, sent forth from the prayerful structure of campus, must often wonder how to be holy people confronted, in the midst of their incredibly busy and demanding lives, with such issues as injustice, racism, and discrimination. How do Notre Dame graduates create communion with God when they are confronted by a worldly emphasis on monetary gain and social status? When they see others being subjected to great poverty and their human rights disregarded? When they watch children struggle to learn in under-resourced or ineffective schools? These obstacles confront all of us in our daily lives, often drawing us away from God and prayer when we are most in need of grace.

This selection of prayers and devotions reminds us of the many and always-beautiful opportunities we have had for prayer at Notre Dame. Whether it be quiet, individual reflection at the Grotto, small community Mass in the intimate friendship of the dorm, or the gathering of the entire Notre Dame family at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame students have always strived to strengthen their relationship with God. We remember



times spent in communion with others—engaging with the intellectual dilemmas of our day in the classroom, helping the marginalized through activities of service, enjoying the gift of leisure with one another at the dining hall or on our teams’ sport fields. In all these sacred places on the Notre Dame campus, we have felt God’s intimate presence—within ourselves, our activities, our relationships with others.

This *Notre Dame Book of Prayer* offers us a way to rediscover those sacred spaces, in the midst of our daily lives, wherever God has called us, where we can be filled with the knowledge of God in every minute, no matter how insignificant or momentous the time may appear to us. With memories of the sacred spaces of our beloved Notre Dame campus as a touchstone, our desire to pray is renewed, despite ever-present obstacles. We recall perhaps the greatest lesson that our time beneath Our Lady’s Dome taught us, that the places and people of our everyday lives are filled with God’s response to our request, “Lord, teach us to pray.” May Notre Dame Our Mother—Mary, the Mother of God—always nourish within each of us the deepest thirst to remain close to her Son Jesus through our lives of prayer. May this *Notre Dame Book of Prayer* keep us connected to Notre Dame and, through her, to her Son.

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