

*Selections from the
Installation of New Leadership Team
June 17, 2007*

Presider: Opening prayer

Let us pray.
Loving God,
we are gathered here this afternoon
to renew our commitment to our mission
and to call forth from our community
four women who have been chosen
to lead us in your ways for the next four years.
Open our minds and hearts
to hear your voice and see your face
here in this chapel
and wherever we go.
We ask this through Christ,
your Son, our Lord, brother and friend.
Amen.

Readings

Lector: Reading from Mother Dolores

A reading from the writings of Sister Dolores Armer

Take courage, my sisters,
and be confident that our dear Lord, who conquered the world,
will speak efficaciously through you.
But make up your mind to bear all with humble patience.
And let nothing alarm you.
Be patient in tribulations,
fervent in prayer and fearless in labor.
Be unassuming in speech,
be grave in your manner
and grateful for the favors and benefits you may receive.
And may the Kingdom of God which is eternal be your reward.
What does it matter
whether we pass through deserts or pleasant fields
provided our dear Lord is with us
and we are going to Paradise.

The words of our founder.
Response: Thanks be to God.

Marie Ann Brent: Gospel: Luke 7:10-11, 37-50

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

A Pharisee invited Jesus to dine with him,
and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table.
Now there was a sinful woman in the city
who learned that he was at the table in the house of the Pharisee.
Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment,
she stood behind him at his feet weeping
and began to bathe his feet with her tears.
Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them,
and anointed them with the ointment.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself,
"If this man were a prophet,
he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him,
that she is a sinner."

Jesus said to him in reply,
"Simon, I have something to say to you."
Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon,
"Do you see this woman?
When I entered your house,
you did not give me water for my feet,
but she has bathed them with her tears
and wiped them with her hair.

"You did not give me a kiss,
but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered.
You did not anoint my head with oil,
but she anointed my feet with ointment.

“So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven;
hence, she has shown great love.
But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.”

He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”
The others at table said to themselves,
“Who is this who even forgives sins?”

But he said to the woman,
“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Call to commitment

Presider:

I now call all members of the congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family, vowed members and associates, to stand. Together let us renew our commitment to our mission:

All vowed members and associates together:

We commit ourselves to live in right relationship with God, self, one another, and all of creation as we strive to live the Gospel more fully.

We commit ourselves to working towards a sustainable future for all. To this end we embrace the Earth Charter and seek new ways of hospitality and welcome to one another and to our brothers and sisters in need.

We commit our support and prayer for our newly elected Leadership Team in a spirit of collaboration, unity, and love.

Presider:

Thank you. You may sit down, and I call the members of the new leadership team to stand, and express your commitment together.

New Leadership Team (together):

We commit ourselves to walk the journey with you and to call forth the best that lies within each one of us.

We will call forth the wisdom that is in our midst as we are all called to be “prophets of a future not our own.”

Presider:

Thank you. You may sit down.

I now call our partners in ministry to stand,
those who work with us in various ways
and whose efforts help us to fulfill our mission.

I ask you to express your commitment to service:

Representatives from the Larger Community together:

We commit ourselves to support you with our prayer and gifts
that we bring in union with the work of the Sisters of the Holy
Family.

Signing and anointing of new leadership team

Presider:

Sisters Gladys, Judeana, Marietta and Guadalupe
please come forward.

As you were signed with the cross
and anointed with sacred chrism at your Baptism,
and called to be Priest, Prophet and King,
so we sign and anoint you now as you begin
your new term of Service of Leadership.

Will the signers please come forward.

When signers have taken their places,
presider continues to read, pausing if needed while each
signing is completed.

Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead.
It is Christ himself who strengthens you with this sign of His love.
Continue to journey in love. (signing of forehead)

Receive the sign of the cross on your ears,
that you may hear clearly the voice of the Lord
in the words of your Sisters. (signing of ears)

Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes,
that you may see the needs of each member of this Community.
(signing of eyes)

Receive the sign of the cross over your heart
that Christ may dwell there by faith and love. (signing of heart)

Receive the sign of the cross on your hands,
that Christ may be known in the work which you do. (signing of
hands)

Receive the sign of the cross on your feet,
that you may faithfully follow in the footsteps
of your crucified and resurrected Lord. (signing of feet)

We have signed these Sisters with the sign of the Cross and
Resurrection.

We pray that God will make them living proof of its saving power
and help them to not only persevere
but to rejoice in the footsteps of Christ.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We continue now by anointing your head and your hands
as a sign of your call to congregational leadership.

Signers take glass oil containers

and anoint their assigned LT member.,

as Presider prays:

May you live in union with the Beloved,
ponder the scriptures,
and following the model of Jesus the Christ in all that you do.
Amen.

I now invite the newly installed Leadership Team
to sprinkle the congregation with water
as a reminder of our baptism
and our call to service.

Intercessions

Presider: We rejoice with our Leadership Team
in the gentle guidance of God who has brought them to this day.
Let us pray that they may press onwards in faith and love.

Reader: That together we may listen
to the whisper of the sacred in our midst; we pray:

Response: Hear us, O Spirit of Wisdom.

That our newly installed leadership team:
Gladys, Judeana, Marietta, and Guadalupe,
recognize the many gifts surrounding them; we pray

Response: Hear us, O Spirit of Wisdom.

That each of us,
no matter where we find ourselves at this time in our lives,
be filled with a deep commitment
for living the mission in new and vibrant ways; we pray

Response: Hear us, O Spirit of Wisdom.

That we may support one another
to follow the promptings of the Spirit wherever she leads; we pray

Response: Hear us, O Spirit of Wisdom.

That we work in tandem with one another
in responding to the needs of others and
in being compelling signs of unity and generous love; we pray

Response: Hear us, O Spirit of Wisdom.

Presider:

Always confident of your guidance, we entrust our journey to you,
who have called us all forth, here and now, to serve you together,
in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Litany of Thanks

Presider:

We close our celebration today
with an expression of our gratitude
for all that has brought us to this moment :

Readers:

O God, we give thanks
for the valiant, prophetic women throughout the ages,
who with integrity and deep faith,
have responded to your call to bring light to our world,
R: We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, O Lord.

For Mary, Mother of Jesus,
the Magdalene, Martha and Mary of Bethany,
Sarah, Ruth, Rahab and all the women of Scripture
who have shown us how to live with courage,
R: We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, O Lord.

For Mother Dolores and our early founding sisters,
who dared to reach out to the world in new and unexpected ways,
R: We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, O Lord.

For all our sisters. living and dead,
who through fidelity and the generous gift of their lives,
have sought and still seek to serve the least of our brothers and
sisters,
R: We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, O Lord.

For our Associates, who share our spirituality and mission,
extending both to those whose lives they touch,
R: We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, O Lord.

For our Guild members and other benefactors,
who have blessed us with their support in spirit and in treasure,
R: We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, O Lord.

For all our co-workers, clergy and lay,
who have labored with us in our many ministries,
R: We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, O Lord.

For the families and the poor,
with whom we are called to advocate and to serve,
R: We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, O Lord.

For the willingness of the members of our newly elected leadership
team,
who have selflessly responded to the call to serve
and to put their many gifts to work for the good of all,
R: We praise you, we thank you, we bless you, O Lord.

Blessing

Presider:

Gladys, Judeana, Marietta, and Guadalupe, please come forward.
(to congregation): Please extend your hands in blessing
over our new Leadership Team.

God of all creation,
we ask you to bless Gladys, Judeana, Marietta, and Guadalupe.
Make them fervent in spirit, joyful in hope,
and always ready to serve you.
Refashion them by your grace
so that they may continue to grow in the full likeness of Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.