



## FOSTER FAMILY LITURGY GUIDE

### **NYD SECRETARIAT**

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## **Closing Prayer**

*Form a circle and hold hands as you pray for each other:*

Lord, empower us with perseverance and persistence to sustain us in our journey with you after these National Youth Days. Help us to live our lives in you, to be rooted in you and built up on you. Embrace us in your love, that we may be firm in the faith. Teach us to always be grateful and joyful in thanksgiving.

*You are invited to give your stone to the person on your right as a remembrance of your time together.*

Lord, I now leave my stone with (name of family member) as a reminder of our encounter and sharing. May this be the beginning of our fruitful and generous sharing of the graces we have received this week.

Glory be...

+ *Sign of the Cross*

## **Family Sharing**

What did you enjoy the most in your delegates' stay with you? Do you have a message for the delegates who have stayed with you? What are your hopes for them as they prepare to go back to their hometown or area?

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This Foster Family Liturgy Manual is a guide to the National Youth Day's prayers that can be implemented before breakfast or dinner with the delegates you are hosting.

These prayers are inspired by the NYD's anchor verse, "So then, as you received Jesus as Lord and Christ, now live your lives in him, be rooted in him and built up on him, held firm by the faith you have been taught, and overflowing with thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6-7). These daily prayers include steps and instructions to make you and your delegates participate actively and fully in the Foster Family Liturgy.

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## **The Approach**

This Foster Family Liturgy will have several steps:

### **Preliminaries**

It describes the physical set up of the prayer space to be used and prepared by the Foster Family.

### **Pray for the Grace**

Start with the + Sign of the Cross.

Knowing that the focus of prayer is extremely important for praying effectively, each prayer begins with a specific grace that you will be humbly begging the Lord for.

This is followed by praying the Our Father.

### **Reading of Scripture**

These are bible passages or readings intended to aid the family in their daily prayer and meditation. You are encouraged to take turns in reading it everyday.

### **Meditate/Contemplate**

This is a moment of interior reflection in which the soul turns to God and tries to understand what God might be saying.

### **Converse with God**

This is the time when you are invited to pray to God directly. This is a spoken prayer conversation between you and God.

### **Closing Prayer**

This is a prayer led by the head of the family or one of the family members. This may be ended with a song, a Hail Mary to ask for Mary's intercession or a Glory be to honor the Trinity.

### **Family Sharing**

This is a small group sharing following the meditation and prayer reflections done while the family is having meals. The delegates or anyone in the family may start this sharing.

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## **DAY 5 Family Prayer: Bearing Fruit November 18, 2011**

### **Preliminaries**

The container with stones, water and candle is placed neatly on the altar.

### **Grace to pray for**

*+Sign of the Cross*

Lord Jesus, help us appreciate the ways in which you have touched our lives in these National Youth Days, that we may be fruitful and generous in sharing the graces we have received.

Our Father...

### **Reading of Scripture:** Colossians 2:6-7

So then, as you received Jesus as Lord and Christ, now live your lives in him, be rooted in him and built up on him, held firm by the faith you have been taught, and overflowing with thanksgiving.

### **Meditate**

Take your stone and meditate on how being a foster family during the NYD has touched your lives and your family. Has the interaction with the NYD delegates and preparation for this NYD event changed you? In what ways have you been made new by this experience?

### **Converse with God**

Say a prayer of thanksgiving about the blessings that you have received by hosting NYD delegates in your home.

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### **Converse with God**

Say a prayer to thank the Lord for blessing you with opportunities to restore or deepen your relationships and for sending people who have been instruments of God's love. Thank him also for personally inviting you to strengthen your relationship with him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, thank you for inviting us to strengthen our faith and love for you by seeking you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Help us to forgive others as you have forgiven us. Move us to be bread blessed, broken and shared for others that they, too, may live life to the fullest. We pour this water to signify our thanksgiving.

*Scoop the water with your hands and pour it on the bowl with your stone.*

Lord, we pray that we will be firm in faith, learn to love and seek the real presence of your Son Jesus by receiving Him in the Eucharist and by living out the love and grace we receive in the Holy Communion.

Glory be...

+ *Sign of the Cross*

### **Family Sharing**

Ask the delegates about their day. What workshops did they like? Who were their speakers? How did they like the worship concert?

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## **DAY 1 Family Prayer: Laying the Ground November 14, 2011**

### **Preliminaries**

Create an altar or family shrine with your delegates. This may be a small prayer space or table that has a Bible, a candle, a cross, a plant and the other materials suggested below.

### **Materials Needed**

A pebble or small stone that can represent each person in the family, a small bowl or container where these stones may be placed.

### **Pray for the Grace**

+ *Sign of the Cross*

Lord, teach us to be grateful for your many signs of goodness in our lives.

Our Father...

### **Reading of Scripture: Psalm 118: 1-3, 14, 23-24, 28-29**

Alleluia! Give thanks to Yahweh for he is good, for his faithful love endures for ever. Let the House of Israel say, 'His faithful love endures forever.' Let the House of Aaron say, 'His faithful love endures forever.' Let those who fear Yahweh say, 'His faithful love endures for ever.' Yahweh is my strength and my song, he has been my Savior. This is Yahweh's doing, and we marvel at it. This is the day which Yahweh has made, a day for us to rejoice and be glad. You are my God, I thank you, all praise to you, my God. I thank you for hearing me, and making yourself my Savior. Give thanks to Yahweh for he is good, for his faithful love endures forever.

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### **Meditate/Contemplate**

*Bring the stone that represents you. As you hold the stone, try to reflect on your life and your preparation for the arrival of your delegates to your home. Be grateful for the gift of you, for the gift of love you have freely received and for the gift of love you have freely given. What are you grateful for as you begin hosting the NYD delegates? Speak to God about it in the silence of your heart.*

### **Converse with God**

*As you all hold your own stones, say a spontaneous prayer of thanksgiving for God's goodness—God's protection during your delegates' travel to the Festival Site, for everyone's good health, new friends, and today's blessings.*

### **Closing Prayer**

We now lift up to you Lord our petitions. Help us to be a blessing to others during the NYD.

*After praying, each one of you will place your stone in a small bowl or container. In silence, lay your hands over the stones as you pray:*

Lord, help us glorify You through our lives.

Glory be..

+ *Sign of the Cross*

### **Family Sharing**

Get to know your delegates during the meal. You may start by asking where the delegates came from (province, town, diocese, parish etc.) You may ask the delegates about their experience traveling to the festival site and to your home. Try to get to know your delegates by inquiring about their life and their expectations of the NYD.

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## **DAY 4 Family Prayer: Firm in the Faith November 17, 2011**

### **Preliminaries**

The container with the stones, water and candle is placed neatly on the altar.

### **Materials**

Another container with water

### **Grace to pray for**

+*Sign of the Cross*

Lord Jesus, may our experience of you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist help us to deepen our love and strengthen our faith in you.

Our Father...

### **Reading of Scripture:** Mark 14:22-24

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant which will be shed for many."

### **Meditate**

Recall an experience when you were challenged to ask for forgiveness and restore a broken relationship or when you were challenged to strengthen and deepen a relationship you have. Remember the persons involved. How is Christ present in these experiences? How have these people become 'bread' and 'drink' for you? How has this experience been a blessing to you? How can you be 'bread blessed, broken and shared' for others?

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### **Closing Prayer**

*The head of the family will now place a candle at the middle of the small bowl. Using the stones, let the candle stand firmly inside the bowl. Say altogether:*

Father, bless our prayers and petitions. May your transforming love move us to be faithful witnesses to all people. May we always remember what Jesus said, "your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds, and glorify your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:16)

### ***Sing altogether the song One Little Candle.***

It is better to light just one little candle  
Than to stumble in the dark  
Better far that you light just one little candle  
All you need is a tiny spark  
If we'd all say a pray'r that the world would be free  
What a wonderful dawn of a new world we'll see  
And if everyone lit just one little candle  
What a bright world this would be.

+ *Sign of the Cross*

### **Family Sharing**

Share with each other when and how you learned to know and love the Lord. Who were the significant people in your life that served like candles in the dark? How did these people enlighten you to know and love the Lord?

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## **DAY 2 Family Prayer: Being Planted November 15, 2011**

### **Preliminaries**

The stones are now inside the bowl or container. Place this bowl or container on the altar.

### **Materials**

Another bowl or container with water

### **Pray for the Grace**

+ *Sign of the Cross*

Lord, help us revisit the roots of our faith planted in us at baptism. May we grow in gratitude for the many people who have watered and nurtured the seed of faith in our hearts.

Our Father...

### **Reading of Scripture:** Philippians 1:3-5

I thank my God whenever I think of you, and every time I pray for you all, I always pray with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the very first day up to the present.

### **Meditate**

God is with you, but more, God is within you. Begin by thanking God for this day. Recall the people who have watered the seed of faith within you. Thank the Lord for these people.

### **Converse with God**

Remembering the first day of the NYD, say a short prayer that expresses your gratitude about the insight or experience of faith that has been planted within you.

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### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, help us to fully respond to your call through our shared baptism. Thank you for all the people you have sent our way to nurture this gift of faith.

*Scoop the water with your hands and pour it on the bowl with your stone.*

Mother Mary, we ask for your guidance in nurturing this gift of faith.

Hail Mary...

+ *Sign of the Cross*

### **Family Sharing**

Share your fondest memories/stories on how you got your name and what the reason may be for being given such name. You may cite a value or virtue that your parents or family members associated with the name they gave you.

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## **DAY 3 Family Prayer: Built up in Jesus Christ November 16, 2011**

### **Preliminaries**

The container with the stones and water is placed neatly on the altar.

### **Materials**

Candle, match

### **Pray for the Grace**

+ *Sign of the Cross*

Lord, help us remember the events that affirm our faith in You and build up our love for You that we may be moved to build up others' faith by our example.

Our Father...

### **Reading of Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-19**

In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.

### **Meditate**

How does the word of God speak to you? Recall a time in your life when you experienced being affirmed in your faith as a Catholic Christian. Do you feel love for God building up inside you? Does Christ live in your heart?

### **Converse with God**

Express your thanks to God in prayer for helping you build your love for him through the events that affirmed your faith.