

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Leader: God's blessing be upon all here gathered with one mind and one heart in the Holy Spirit.

ALL: BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER!

L: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people.

A: AND KINDLE IN THEM A TRUE SPIRIT OF DEDICATION.

L: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created anew.

A: SO THAT THEY MAY RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST.

L: Let us pray:

A: (Pray one of the following prayers:)

1. ALMIGHTY GOD * TO WHOM ALL HEARTS ARE OPEN, * ALL DESIRES KNOWN, * AND FROM WHOM NO SECRETS ARE HID, * CLEANSE THE THOUGHTS OF OUR HEARTS * BY THE INSPIRATION OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, * THAT WE MAY PERFECTLY LOVE YOU * AND WORTHILY GLORIFY YOUR HOLY NAME * BY CHOOSING PROPERLY AND HONESTLY * OUR NEW LEADERS. * WE ASK FOR YOUR BLESSING AND GUIDANCE * IN THE NAME OF YOUR SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. * AMEN.
2. CREATOR SPIRIT, * COME AND VISIT THE SOULS THAT ARE YOURS. * FILL WITH YOUR GRACE THE HEARTS YOU CREATED. * KINDLE A LIGHT IN OUR MINDS, * POUR LOVE INTO OUR HEARTS, * UPHOLD WITH YOUR UNFAILING STRENGTH * THE FRAILTY OF OUR HUMAN NATURE, * SO THAT WE MAY HONESTLY AND PROPERLY * CHOOSE THOSE PEOPLE * WHO ARE TO LEAD AND GUIDE

US * IN LIVING THE GOSPEL LIFE OF JESUS
CHRIST * IN THE SPIRIT OF ST. FRANCIS. *
AMEN.

Scripture Reading,

(One of the following suggested texts may be chosen; if another text is more appropriate, it may be substituted.)

1. Isaiah 61:1-3
2. Jeremiah 1:4-10
3. Acts 1:15-26
4. Acts 4:32-35
5. Matt 4:18-22
6. Luke 10:1-9

At this point, a short homily may be given, a period of meditation or silent prayer may be observed, or a time for shared thoughts or prayers pertaining to the Scripture reading may take place. Then follows the prayer:

L: (adapted from *Eucharistic Liturgies*, p. 182)

For God's blessing and guidance in all that we do as men, let us pray: (short pause)

God, our Father, the brotherhood of man makes little sense unless we believe first in the Fatherhood of God. And we do believe. One way we express that belief is by the trust we place in one another when we choose leaders for our fraternity. The ballots we cast today are ways of saying that all men can be brothers and can have the opportunity to exercise their rights and obligations, because you are our Father and you give us dignity as your people. Guide our fraternity, Father. Help us grow together in your love and witness to the Gospel of your Son in our Franciscan way wherever we may be. This we ask under the inspiration of your Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ who is with us now and through all eternity.

A: AMEN!

At this point the elections take place and the ordinary business is conducted.

After the Election and Meeting

L: May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in your faith, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, your whole life and outlook may be radiant with hope.

- A: BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER!
- L: For our leaders in the Church, that by their guidance, example, and teaching, we may come to know Christ more thoroughly, love him more deeply, and serve him more faithfully: O Father, we pray:
- A: LEAD US TO YOUR KINGDOM!
- L: For our leaders in government, that they may honestly and sincerely strive after true peace and harmony, true justice and dignity: O Father, we pray:
- A: LEAD US TO YOUR KINGDOM!
- L: For the leaders of our Franciscan Family, that they may keep alive for us the ideals of St. Francis and may challenge us to live our gospel lives more effectively: O Father, we pray:
- A: LEAD US TO YOUR KINGDOM!
- L: For the new leaders of this fraternity, that through their influence and example we may live our faith more deeply, may witness to Christ more thoroughly, and may participate in your kingdom more completely: O Father, we pray:
- A: FATHER, * INSPIRE OUR NEW LEADERS * TO GUIDE OUR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY * ON ITS WAY TOWARD KNOWING YOU AND MAKING YOU KNOWN TO ALL MEN. * FILL THEM WITH WISDOM, COMPASSION, AND * MOST OF ALL * A DEEP AND SINCERE DEDICATION TO YOU. * THROUGH THEIR LEADERSHIP, * MAY OUR COMMUNITY LIVE FAITHFULLY THE GOSPEL LIFE * IN THE SPIRIT OF ST. FRANCIS * THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. * AMEN.
- L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another.
- A: THANKS BE TO GOD!

These prayers for elections supplant the ordinary prayers for the fraternity meeting on that day when the elections take place.