



CLOSING PRAYER:

Invite a BEC member to lead the closing prayer.

CLOSING HYMN:

A Call to Christians

1. A light within the world,
Yes, witnesses are we
To bear the light of Christ
For all the world to see.
2. Your love and light O Lord,
You send us to impart
To those who know You not
Yet love You in Their heart.

Chorus:

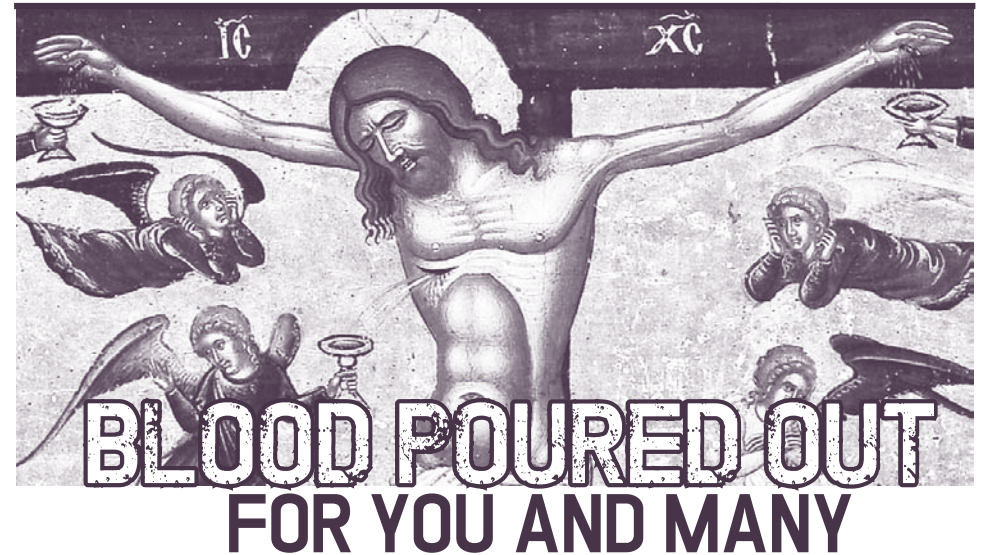
***We come with joy O Christ
In answer to Your Call,
Through love we give All.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

3. Have mercy on the world,
That sin and strife may cease,
Extend your reign, O Christ,
You are the king of peace.

A decade of the Rosary or Divine Mercy may follow.

BEC Reflection

SENT WITH JOY TO HEAL September 2020



FOCUS: Sent to Heal the Wounded and Afflicted

EVENT: College Martyrs

SOCIAL MEDIA TREND: #pmpteverydaysaints

INTRODUCTION: The Son of God, who came down 'from heaven, not to do [his] own will, but the will of him who sent [him]', said on coming into the world, 'Lo, I have come to do your will, O God.' 'And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.' From the first moment of his Incarnation, the Son embraces the Father's plan of divine salvation in his redemptive mission: 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work.' The sacrifice of Jesus 'for the sins of the whole world' expresses his loving communion with the Father. 'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life', said the Lord, '[for] I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.' (CCC 606)

OPENING PRAYER:

Invite a BEC Member to lead in prayer.

OPENING HYMN:

Praise to The Lord

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation,
O my soul, praise Him,
for He is thy health and salvation.
All ye who hear,
now to his altar draw near
Joining in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, who doth
prosper thy work and defend thee.
Surely his goodness and
mercy shall daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty
can do,
Who with his love doth
befriend thee.
3. Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in us adore Him!
All that has life and breath,
come now in praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from
His people again
Now as we worship before Him.

DIALOGUE:



The global coronavirus pandemic is forcing doctors and nurses to make agonizing decisions of who lives and who dies. It is the toughest and most heartbreaking decision a person will ever have to make.

Infected with COVID-19, 72-year-old Italian priest, Don Giuseppe Berardelli also had to make a one the most difficult decisions of his life. In the end, Don Berardelli chose to put others' lives first before his own, by giving up his ventilator to save the life of a younger person. He made that ultimate sacrifice on March 15.

Don Giuseppe Berardelli, a priest for 47 years, was serving as the Archpriest of Casnigo in the Diocese of Bergamo in Northern Italy, which was one of the areas hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. Berardelli had been suffering from a respiratory condition for some time, so his parish had previously purchased the breathing apparatus to help him cope.

Clara Poli, the mayor of the town of Fiorano, where Don Giuseppe was a longtime pastor, spoke of Berardelli's character to the Italian publication *FarodiRoma*: "A great person.... he was always cheerful and full of enthusiasm; he gave peace and joy to our communities," said Poli. "He was a priest who listened to everyone and he knew how to listen; Whoever turned to him knew that they could count on his help."

Commenting on Berardelli's selfless act, a health care worker in Casnigo retirement home told *FarodiRoma*, "I am deeply moved by the fact that the Archpriest of Casnigo, Don Giuseppe Berardelli – to whom the parish community had bought a ventilator – without any doubt or hesitation assigned the ventilator to someone younger than him."

James Martin, an American priest and editor-at-large for *America Magazine*, a Jesuit review of faith and culture, called Berardelli a "Martyr of Charity." And he cited a Bible verse, John 15:13, which says, "No one can have greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends."

Don Giuseppe Berardelli passed away in a hospital in Lovere, Bergamo. As with most victims of this pandemic, no one is allowed to attend the funeral, but local reports say the people of Caserta, Italy, applauded him from their balconies at noon on Monday, March 16.

Buzz with the person next to you or with the group.

- What made Don Giuseppe Berardelli to make this sacrifice?
- Share a personal story or an incident where you have to give up something for someone.

DISCERNMENT:

Luke 4: 18 – 19 Source: Jerusalem Bible

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord."

Reflection:

- READ the text aloud and LISTEN with openness.
- READ it silently by yourself until a word or phrase touches or strikes you.
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through the word or phrase?
- What do you say to the Lord in response to his Word?
- Share in small groups (3-4 persons) the verse that has touched you.

Deeds:

- September 21st is the Feast of College Martyrs. Gather some information about our Martyrs via internet and share with your family members, especially with children and youth. They are our heroes who laid down their lives for Christ.