# CBI Opening Prayer Service – February 1, 2014 "Virtues" (St. John the Baptist)

**Greeting:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

**Opening Song**: *One Bread, One Body* (on reverse side)

#### First Reading: Colossians 3:1-17

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Because of these the wrath of God is coming [upon the disobedient]. By these you too once conducted yourselves, when you lived in that way. But now you must put them all away: anger, fury, malice, slander, and obscene language out of your mouths. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *The Word of the Lord*.

## Psalm Response: Psalm 103

R. All: "Bless the Lord, my soul."

Bless the LORD, my soul;
all my being, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, my soul;
and do not forget all his gifts,
Who pardons all your sins,
and heals all your ills,
Who redeems your life from the pit,
and crowns you with mercy and compassion,
Who fills your days with good things,
so your youth is renewed like the eagle's. R. All

The Lord does righteous deeds, brings justice to all the oppressed He made known his ways to Moses, to the Israelites his deeds. Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger, abounding in mercy. He will not always accuse, and nurses no lasting anger; He has not dealt with us as our sins merit, nor requited us as our wrongs deserve. *R.* All For as the heavens tower over the earth, so his mercy towers over those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west,

So far has he removed our sins from us. R. All

#### **Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17**

Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. *The Word of the Lord*.

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Today we will ask God for our needs as we put our prayers at His feet. **R. All: Lord, hear our prayer.** 

- -We pray for our Church so that God's Word will be brought to all the faithful and his Words will enlighten and guide us. R. All
- -For those who teach our children, fill them with wisdom and understanding so they can inspire and lead those they teach. R. All
- -For those suffering from the cold this winter, may they find suitable warmth. R. All
- -Heal the anger in our world so that men and women of all religions can live together in peace and harmony. R. All
- -For those of us that face hardship and difficult choices, grant us Your wisdom and peace to choose wisely. R. All

Lord, take these prayers, and all the silent intentions in our hearts, and grant us peace in Your name. R. All: Amen

#### **Conclusion: Praying with Scripture\***

"As one of God's chosen ones", consider one of the 'virtues' St. Paul outlines in Colossians above that you may be in most need of at this point of time in your life. Pray that the "peace of Christ control your hearts" as you reflect on and develop this virtue.

# ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

(Un Pan, Un Cuerpo)

John Foley, S.J.



Text: Based on 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 12:4, 12–13, 20; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:46; The Didache 9. English, John Foley, S.J., b. 1939; Spanish translation of refrain and verses 1, 2: Salomón Mussiett, alt.; verse 3: Pedro Rubalcava, b. 1958. Text and music © 1978, 1996, 2003, John B. Foley, S.J. and OCP Publications. All rights reserved.



God, Come to my assistance.

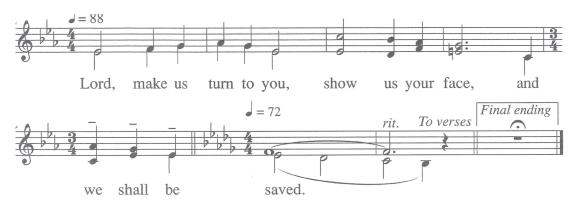
R: Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Y.

### Psalm

Lord, Make Us Turn to You | Marty Haugen



Prayer

## Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

### Intercessions

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Closing prayer