

## **Opening Prayer**

**Reader:** We pray to the Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah, our first examples of civil disobedience, who defied the Pharaoh's order to kill all male Hebrew infants,

*(All present): **give us the courage to challenge sinful laws that will harm another human being and our Earth.***

**Reader:** We pray to the prophet Amos, who condemned the injustice of the wealthy elite and how they oppressed the poor and vulnerable,

*(All present): **give us the words to speak truth to power.***

**Reader:** We pray to the prophet Micah, who stressed that true worship of God entailed doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God,

*(All present): **give us the humility to act out of love to all those you put in our path.***

**Reader:** We pray to Isaiah, who criticized the corruption of national leaders and emphasized the significance of caring for the poor and vulnerable,

*(All present): **show us how to peacefully counter corruption and respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our communities.***

## **Lament Chant:**

**Salvator mundi salvanos.**

**Salvator mundi salvanos.**

**Salvanos, salvanos.**

**Salvanos mundi salvanos**

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**Reader:** We pray to Esther, who risked her life to save her people,

*(All present): **help us to remember that advocacy sometimes requires personal sacrifice and bravery.***

**Reader:** We pray to Deborah, who united the Israelites and led them to victory in war,

*(All present): **give us your sense of strength and authority.***



## **Sisters Speak Out: Litany**

*Written by Maryann Mueller, CSSF*

**Reader:** We pray to the persistent widow in the presence of an unjust judge,

*(All present): may we emulate her unwavering persistence to seek justice even in the darkest times.*

**Reader:** We pray to Peter, who replied to his captors, the religious leaders of his day, "We must obey God rather than man" when jailed for speaking and acting out of his belief in God,

*(All present): give us the courage always to do and say to what God calls us.*

**Reader:** We pray to Mary of the Magnificat, who witnessed the suffering of Jesus and the unjust actions of the Roman authorities,

*(All present): give us the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.*

**Lament Chant:**

**Salvator mundi salvanos.**

**Salvator mundi salvanos.**

**Salvanos, salvanos.**

**Salvanos mundi salvanos**

**True Story:**

**Reader:** We pray to Martin Luther King, Jr., who led the nonviolent struggle for racial equality and human rights in the United States, and was martyred for doing so,

*(All present): please guide all peacemakers, leaders who value peace, and everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict.*

**Reader:** We pray to Rosa Parks, who took nonviolent action to oppose the unjust and racist Jim Crow laws of her day,

*(All present): give us the voice and power to help reject racism and empower those who have been discriminated against in our country because of the color of their skin.*



## Sisters Speak Out: Litany

Written by Maryann Mueller, CSSF

**Reader:** We pray to Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, who advocated for social justice and nonviolence,

*(All present): please guide and empower all those who protest, speak truth to power, and work for justice and an end to the growing disparity between the rich and the poor.*

**Reader:** We pray to Sister Theresa Kane, who fought for decades for the equality of women in the Catholic Church,

*(All present): show us how to end the prejudice throughout our country, our Church, and our world so that racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will be removed from our hearts, our society, and our laws.*

**Reader:** We pray to Blessed Stanley Francis Rother, who dedicated his life to serving and defending the rights of the indigenous people in Guatemala, which led to his assassination during the Guatemalan Civil War,

*(All present): help us to be a sign of Christ's love among all people you put in front of us.*

### Lament Chant:

**Salvator mundi salvanos.**

**Salvator mundi salvanos.**

**Salvanos, salvanos.**

**Salvanos mundi salvanos**

**Reader:** We pray to Sister Dorothy Stang, who was murdered while holding the Bible, for speaking out, defending the Amazon rainforest, and advocating for the rights of the poor,

*(All present): give us courage and understanding on how to best stand up for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and to end the cycles of violence that threaten our future and that of our Earth.*

**Reader:** We pray to Bishop Oscar Romero who was murdered while celebrating Mass because of his outspoken support for the poor and vulnerable in El Salvador,

*(All present): help us to have the strength to stand firm in our convictions, to speak truth to power, and to defend the vulnerable.*



## Sisters Speak Out: Litany

Written by Maryann Mueller, CSSF

**Reader:** We pray to Sister Margaret Smyth, a fervent advocate for poor and migrant communities,

*(All present): **guide us on how best to welcome and care for immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims worldwide, so they are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.***

**Reader:** We pray to Sr. Dianna Ortiz, who survived kidnapping and torture and used the experience to become a voice for torture victims everywhere,

*(All present): **give us the courage to be a voice for the abused and voiceless in our society.***

**Reader:** We pray to Pope Francis, who tirelessly spoke out on behalf of migrants and our Earth,

*(All present): **help us to continue to advocate for and protect migrants and immigrants, and en flesh the principles outlined in Laudato Si.***

**Lament Chant:**

**Salvator mundi salvanos.  
Salvator mundi salvanos.  
Salvanos, salvanos.  
Salvanos mundi salvanos**

**Reader:** We now take a moment to remember all we know who would be with us today if they could, and we invoke their strength and passion for justice.

**Lament Chant:**

**Salvator mundi salvanos.  
Salvator mundi salvanos.  
Salvanos, salvanos.  
Salvanos mundi salvanos**

Closing Prayer:

Senator John Fetterman  
814-453-5213 Erie Office

Senator Dave McCormick  
814-240-5213 Erie Office

