



"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10)

LEADER: This May 19th, as we celebrate these 150 years of Dominican Life, we remember especially our Ministry to the Deaf, the Ministry of our Literacy Learning Centers, and all the Sisters who have supported us through Internal Ministries within our Congregation.

READER 1: Reflecting in gratitude, we remember Sr. Helena Henton who, in the mid-1980's, advocated for pastoral services for the Deaf while a consultant in the Office of Education in the Diocese of Springfield and later, in Peoria. We remember Sr. Alverna Hollis who established the Office for the Deaf in the Diocese of Springfield and who became the first Executive Director of the National Catholic Office for the Deaf in Washington, DC, in the 1980's. Then, in 1991, recognizing the need for further education for Deaf students and adults in Peru, Sr. Alverna, opened *Santo Domingo* School for the Deaf with 55 students ages 16-28, and in 1993 published a sign language book with graphics of universal signs that is still being used today. We remember with gratitude Sr. Patricia Francis' ministry with the Deaf community, her ten years as Director of the Office for the Deaf Community for the Diocese of Springfield, her help in writing the published book "Eye-Centered", a study of the spirituality of Deaf People with implications for Deaf Ministry, her national and international workshops and retreats, and her continued ministry to the Deaf community wherever her ministries have called her to serve.

LEADER: We remember with gratitude these Sisters and all our many Sisters who have ministered to the Deaf, and for this welcoming and inclusive ministry, and so we pray:

ALL: God of All Goodness, for inviting our Sisters into this ministry and opening hearts and hands to the Deaf, we thank You for the past and ask that we have ears to hear Your Word of Love and openness to all.

SONG: "Open My Eyes" verse 2 by Jesse Manibusan (with a pronoun change.)

**"Open our ears, Lord, Help us to hear your voice,
Open our ears, Lord. Help us to hear".**

READER 2: Reflecting in gratitude, we remember Sr. Kathleen Ryan who in 1994 heard the need for literacy and citizenship education for adult women immigrants yearning for inclusion in our English-speaking society, and thus, she began the Dominican Literacy Center in Aurora, IL. We remember, too, Sr. Judith Curran who, in 1996, with Sr. Kathleen's support and guidance, initiated the second Dominican Literacy Center, then in Chicago and now in Melrose Park, IL. We remember with gratitude their

compassion and foresight in providing this ministry for the life of the world which has touched the lives of countless immigrants and their families through these many years.

LEADER: We remember, too, with gratitude, the many generous Sisters, volunteer tutors and support persons who have made these ministries possible, and for all our Sisters who have welcomed immigrants through literacy instruction, we pray:

ALL: God of All Goodness, for this empowering and inclusive ministry in the Literacy Centers, we thank You for the past and ask that we have eyes open to You hidden in immigrants who yearn to be included, to be seen and valued as our brothers and sisters. Help us, God of all nations, to see with loving eyes and speak with a heart of welcome.

SONG: “Open My Eyes” verse 1 by Jesse Manibusan (with a pronoun change.)

**“Open our eyes, Lord, Help us to see your face,
Open our eyes, Lord. Help us to see.”**

READER 3: Reflecting in gratitude, we remember all the countless numbers of Sisters who have blessed our Congregation through their internal ministries, through congregational leadership and administration, compassionate care, financial administration, convent maintenance, liturgical and music ministries, archives, food service, daily ministering and prayer support that facilitate our blessed common life. These Sisters in ministry, so often behind the scenes, have supported and sustained us for the life of the world and for the betterment of our lives, too.

LEADER: Thus, remembering in gratitude these generous Sisters who have and do support our lives in Community and our ministries, we pray:

ALL: God of All Goodness, for these empowering and supportive Sisters in ministry, we thank You for the past, for All who have facilitated our Congregational life and ministries through these 150 years. We ask that, now and in the future, we may have generous hearts open to your call to service within our Congregation that we can continue our ministries of service to all for the Life of the World.

LEADER: And now, as we are beckoned into the future, we pray:

ALL: Yes, Loving and inclusive God, we join in Your vision that “all may have life and have it to the full”. Lead us, guide us, open us into the future with gratitude and confidence that Your Wisdom and Your Love companion us today and always. We pray in Jesus Name. Amen!

SONG: “Open My Eyes” verse 3 by Jesse Manibusan (with a pronoun change.)

**“Open our hearts, Lord, Help us to love like You,
Open our hearts, Lord. Help us to love.” (sing twice)**