

CRS Commissioning Service

Use this prayer service to commission the members of your CRS Chapter. It can be used on its own or it can be incorporated into a larger service.

LEADER:

I invite you to center yourself for prayer. Acknowledge the presence of our loving God and the presence of our sisters and brothers all around the world.

READER 1:

A reading from the Gospel according to John (John 20:19-22):

On the evening of that first day of the week... Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit."

READER 2:

As we are sent forth, may we keep in mind these words that Pope Francis shared with a group of young leaders:

"True leadership is fruitful and each one of you, each one of you, has the seed of leadership inside you. Make it grow. Be leaders wherever it behooves you to be: leaders of thought, leaders of action, leaders of joy, leaders of hope, leaders of the construction of a better world. This is your path, the seed is within."

LEADER:

"Leaders of hope, leaders of the construction of a better world." Take a moment and reflect on what "hope" means to you. What does it mean to embody hope? To lead with hope? I invite you to consider how you would complete the statement "Hope is..."

[Pause for a moment of reflection.]

As you feel moved, I invite you to say your statement out loud. Hope is...

LEADER:

Now I would like to call forward the members of this year's CRS Chapter. [Call chapter members by name and invite them to the front of the room.]

I invite you to extend your hands in blessing over these leaders as I pray our closing prayer:

Loving God,

We ask that you help these chapter members live as embodiments of hope. May these words of hope that we have named aloud serve as a reminder of how we are called to lead as we go forth from this place.

We ask that you guide these leaders in the work that lies ahead. Strengthen their hands and hearts that they might be compassionate to human need, tender yet strong in their care for one another, encouraging and affirming in their invitation to leadership, genuine in their companionship, and faithful to the commitments they have made.

Guide them so that they might be leaders of hope, leaders of the construction of a better world.

Amen.

To close, I invite you to offer one another a sign of peace.

