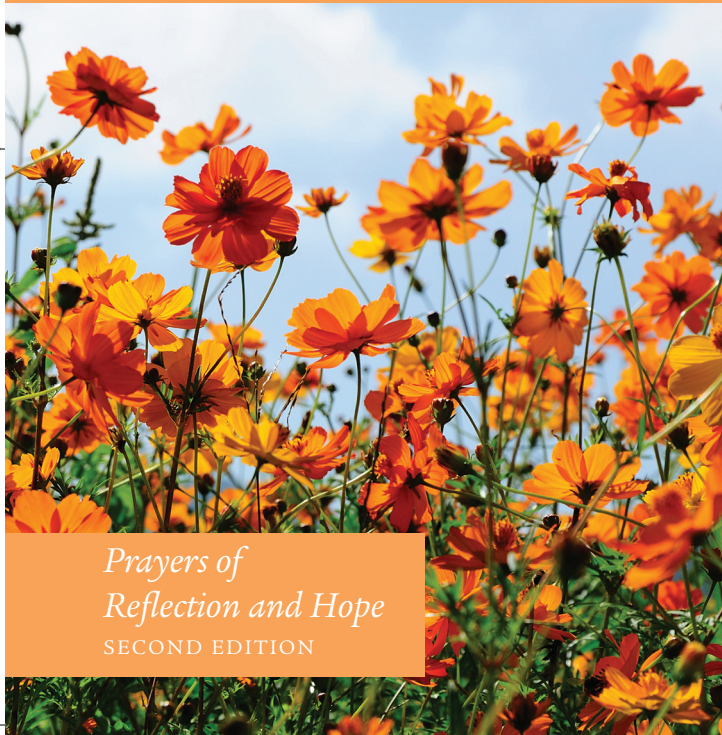


FOR
Everything
THERE IS A
Season



*Prayers of
Reflection and Hope*
SECOND EDITION

The Columbans are a society of missionaries, including priests and lay people, who minister to people of various cultures as a way of witnessing to the universal love of God. We go in the name of the Church to announce, by deed and word, the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our work is made possible through a partnership with those who support us both spiritually and materially. Our aim is to help you on your spiritual journey through the prayers and reflections in this book.

-The Missionary Society of St. Columban

Winter's Farewell

O God, I feel Your presence in the earth coming to life as Spring begins to take away Winter's cold. Warm our hearts that we may appreciate the fullness and depth of Your love. During Holy Week, we recall Your Son's suffering and death for all people – black, brown, yellow, white, all the shades in between, female, male, young, old, speaking all tongues, silent and with whatever uniqueness each brings. In self-giving, He shares His being, His love. We cherish His memory. May healing come as we try to follow, sometimes with faltering steps, His way. Amen.



Mission

Jesus, we, Your followers, live in an in-between world. We know by Faith of Your victory over sin and death through Your Life, Death and Resurrection. Yet we see the reality of evil in people being exploited - In the land, sea and sky being polluted - In people brought to despair by poverty. We continue Your mission of hope by our own attempts to be fair and caring in our day-to-day lives; in the struggles to bring about true peace and justice; in announcing to others that life has meaning and is fulfilled in compassion. By Your example of self-giving, guide us to true love and life. Encourage us to use our hearts, minds, and hands, all together in following Your example of being life giving. Amen.

Easter Hope

Flowers are blooming, signs of hope and joy. Dear Jesus, Your rising from the dead gives the promise of new life. Help me be aware of other people's needs, especially the poor and all who have less in life. Help me understand how we are all related in Your creation. Guide me to know Your truth. Help me to make good choices, that my love may reflect Your love, and to remember that You first loved us. May Mary, Your mother, help me hear Your Word and follow You. Amen.



Compassion

Dear Jesus, at times we get caught up in the tasks of doing things. The busyness of our lives may harden us. We act as if our value and worth depend on accomplishments. We fail to appreciate the gift of life and who we are. You remind us that we are to become like little children – open to being, open to life. Help us to cherish Your love for us as we are, so that in turn we may show a tender compassionate heart to others. Amen.

Authenticity

Dear Jesus, I try to come to You as I am, though I know that I do try to give a good appearance, to show off my best self. Yet, You accept me with all the pretense, with all my faults and failings. Your mercy and understanding brings healing to my heart. You call me to simplicity, to be like Nathaniel, a person without guile. I come to realize that all that I am and all that I have is Your gift. That to be my true self, I need to give myself away as You did. Your love calls me to love in turn. Amen.

Awareness

Dear Jesus, I get so caught up in my doings that I am scarcely aware of Your presence. Yet when things go wrong or when I just seem to be on a perpetual treadmill, I finally seek You out. You are patient, gentle and kind. You let me know that You are with me. In turn, You invite me to get out of myself and to broaden my awareness of others' needs. Help me to show real care. Amen.

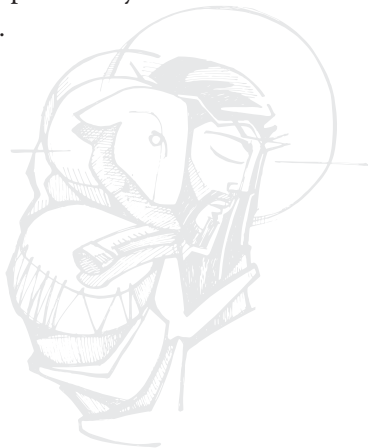
Prayerfulness

Dear Jesus, at times I feel empty within. Slowing down and remembering all the things for which I am thankful provides opening to real prayer and not just mumbled phrases. Then feeling Your presence and friendship, I can bring to You my cares and also be open to Your invitation to love and give of myself for others. Show me the way. Amen.

Openness

Dear Jesus, Advent begins on the last

Sunday of November. We prepare ourselves for Your coming among us – for Your first coming at Bethlehem – for Your coming again at the end of time, and more immediately Your coming to us in our day-to-day lives. We meet You in the Bible, in celebrating the Mass and in prayer, in our meeting with others, especially the poor and all those who have less in life. Free us from the distractions that separate us from You. Open our eyes and ears and hearts. Amen.



Fulfillment

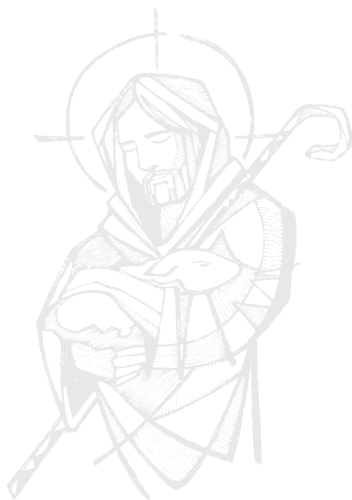
Dear Jesus, in reflecting on All Saints and All Souls Feast Days, I recall St. Thomas More's prayer, "Pray for me, as I for thee, that we may merrily meet in heaven." Such a joyous desire springs from a trust in Your love and reminds me that we come to fulfillment together with others. In flame that desire within my heart and continue to open my spirit to all of Your creation. Amen.

Tolerance

Dear Jesus, I try to read slowly the story of Your birth as written in the Gospels of Sts. Matthew and Luke. I ask what meaning do these words bring to me now. I might admire the fidelity of Joseph to Mary in spite of the town gossip about her pregnancy. I see you born in a humble stable. I see the love and care of Mary wrapping You in swaddling clothes. Help me to grow in compassion and love. Amen.

Journey

Dear Jesus, You are our brother. You have taken us by the hand and lead us to join with You in the work of justice, mercy, and healing. Life can sometimes be a difficult journey – like Your journey to the cross. Accompany us, open our eyes and awaken our hearts to see, to know and to live the life of the servant that You invite us to be. We are reminded of Your never-ending love and that You will always be by our side. Amen.



In all of our work, we strive to follow the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth who said, *“He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free and to proclaim the Lord’s year of favor.”*

— (Lk 4:18)

*“There is an appointed time for
everything and a time for every
affair under the heavens...”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Prayers by Fr. John Comiskey, SSC

For additional copies of this booklet contact us at:

Missionary Society of St. Columban

1902 N. Calhoun St.,

St. Columbans, NE 68056

www.columban.org

Toll Free (877)299-1920

Email: mission@columban.org

Missions in:

Australia · Britain · Chile · China · Fiji · Hong Kong
Ireland · Japan · Korea · Mexico · Myanmar · New Zealand
Pakistan · Peru · Philippines · Taiwan · United States