



Open Wide Our Doors

Spirituality of Welcoming

A prayer based on the 34th General Chapter Acts

“I stand at the door and knock”



Introduction

In times past, we may remember when we never locked our doors. A friend told me that in the home in which she lived as a child, no one knew where the key was for their front door. In this day and age, we have been trained to fear strangers and maybe even the neighbour next door.

Today, we must knock . . . and wait for a door to be opened.

In these times, we are challenged to develop a spirit of trust, and that is difficult because of all that we hear on the news of robberies, shootings, mass killings. Our world is torn apart with wars and terrorist attacks, people forced to leave their homes, their villages, their countries.

Reflection

We are now faced with people from war-torn countries seeking asylum in our country. Because of this, we are challenged to face some of the following questions:

1. How willing am I to accept/welcome people of other cultures and religions into my neighbourhood?
2. How prepared am I to help these people assimilate into my city and share my life with them?
3. How equipped am I spiritually to recognize the presence of God in non-Christian persons?
4. How willing am I to share from my abundance?



Sharing

(If you are praying in a group setting, invite sharing on these questions, as persons are led. Hold all sharings with a welcoming and non-judgmental heart.)

Prayer



Loving God,
Creator of all that
is good, teach us
to open our
hearts, minds and
homes to welcome strangers into our countries, our lives, our
cities and our neighbourhoods. Give us a sense of gratitude for
the many things we are privileged to have, and a spirit of sharing
so that our refugees may see that our God and theirs is a generous
and loving presence in us and in them. Increase in us a
Spirituality of Welcome, so that we may make this world a place
of justice for all, and a home in which we are all kind and caring
of each other.

We ask this in the name of All that is Good. Amen!

