



A Candle for HOPE

Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections

Liturgy / Prayer Component

At exactly six o'clock on the eve of elections, each youth is asked to light A CANDLE and offer a prayer for HONEST, ORDERLY and PEACEFUL ELECTIONS. He/She may do this individually, or with his/her family, friends and peers; in his/her home, parish, community or other places



Preparations for the Prayer

The participants are given a candle (and a copy of the rite, when possible) before they enter the prayer area (in the church, in a chapel or a prayer corner at home). Everyone is asked to observe silence in the prayer area.

In the prayer area, instrumental music may be played to help create an atmosphere of prayer.

Introduction

Faithful to the Gospel, the Church actively encourages and supports every good endeavor of the human community, at their efforts in building up God's Kingdom here on earth, through the promotion of positive values such as truth, justice and freedom.

With this conviction, let us pool our efforts and rally around God's Word in a spirit of humble supplication and intercession, on this eve of our elections. May the candle we light symbolize our ardent and vigilant desire to dispel the darkness of error and deceit, and to let truth and charity shine in and through our nation.

Opening Song | *A song/chant invoking the Holy Spirit is sung, e.g. "Holy Spirit, Come to Us"-Taizé, "Veni Sancte Spiritus"-Taizé, "Come Holy Spirit, I Need You", etc.*

Entrance of the Paschal Candle | *The lighted Paschal Candle, a symbol of Christ, is carried in procession to the altar. If the prayer is done outside the church and/or in smaller groups, a big candle, appropriately decorated, may be used in lieu of the Paschal Candle.*

It may be necessary to introduce that this candle symbolizes Christ, our Light.

Psalm | *The assembly, divided into two groups, recites the verses of this psalm alternately.*

Prayer for the Restoration of God's Favor

Lord, you were favorable to your land
You restored the fortunes of Jacob,
You forgave the iniquity of your people
You pardoned all their sin.
You withdrew all your wrath,
You turned from your hot anger

Restore us again, O God of our salvation
And put away your indignation towards us
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

Will you not revive us again
So that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord
And grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak
For he will speak peace to his people
To his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him
That his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet
Righteousness and peace will kiss each other
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground
And righteousness will look down from the sky

The Lord will give what is good
And our land will yield its increase
Righteousness will go before him
And will make a path for his steps.

From Psalm 85

**Scripture
Reading**

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Then, I saw a new heaven and a new earth, the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice calling from the throne, "Look, here God lives among human beings. He will make His home among them; they will be his people, and he will be their God, God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death and no more mourning or sadness or pain. The world of the past has gone.

[Rev 21:1-4]

Silence *Participants are invited to spend a few moments of silence for reflection, with the help of the following guide questions:*

**Points for
Reflection**

What is my dream of a new heaven and a new earth? What is God's dream of a new heaven and a new earth?

What can I do to help bring about this dream of a new heaven and a new earth?

The silence may be accompanied by instrumental music to aid reflection, or to cover outside noises.

**Lighting of
Candles for
HOPE**

Some persons approach the Paschal Candle to light their own candles. They then share their light with the rest of the assembly. This may be accompanied by an appropriate song, e.g. "Liwanag ng Buong Mundo"-Taizé, "Lord Jesus Christ"-Taizé, "O Hesus Hilumin Mo", "One Little Candle", "Pananagutan", "Panalanging Maging Bukas Palad", "Heal Our Land", etc.

**Prayers of
the Faithful**

The Almighty God has revealed His glory to all the nations. From Him comes all power and might, wisdom and justice. Through Him, all authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed. At this crucial time of our nation’s history, let us call on Him, saying:

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

1. Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct these elections in all its phases and processes. May it reach its proper fulfillment in peace and order, honesty and justice. We pray.
2. Assist with Your Spirit of counsel and fortitude all the candidates of these elections. May their actions be carried out in righteousness, and their motivations stem from honesty and service. We pray.
3. Grant all candidates and supporters the serenity which comes from a true spirit of service and justice. May all of them be able to accept the results with graciousness and humility. We pray.
4. Guide all those entrusted to guard our political welfare. May they be enabled by your powerful protection to discharge their duties with justice and competence. We pray.
5. Fill us all with the fire of faith. May each of us live as Your children by building Your Reign through our integrity, always serving as “salt and light” of the world. We pray.

Organizers may create or add their own contextualized prayers, or use other sets of intentions, e.g. the Panalangin ng Bayan in “Misa ng Bagong Milenyo” (Bukas Palad Music Ministry).

**Lord’s
Prayer**

This may be sung together, or prayed in a local dialect/s.

**Concluding
Prayer**

The assembly prays the “Panalangin para sa Malinis na Halalan”, the Oratio Imperata for the National Elections, or any appropriate prayer to culminate the prayer service.

Panalangin para sa Malinis na Halalan

Ama naming Diyos,
pinagkalooban Mo kami ng pananagutang pumili
ng mga mamumuno sa amin.
Igawad Mo na maisakatuparan namin
ang aming tungkulin ayon sa Iyong kalooban.
Huwag nawa kaming patakot
o magpabili ng aming dangal.
Pumili nawa kami ng mga taong karapat-dapat:
marangal, maka-buhay, maka-pamilya,
maka-dukha, at maka-Diyos.
Mga taong laang maglingkod,
at di gahaman sa salapi at kapangyarihan.
Sama-sama kaming magsisikap na gawing
malinis, maayos, at mapayapa ang eleksiyong ito.
Ibigay Mo sa amin ang tagumpay.
Ito'y hiling namin sa Iyo sa pamamagitan ni Kristo
At sa tulong ni Mariang aming Ina.
Amen.

Final Song *A song to the Blessed Mother could be sung, e.g. "Stella Maris", "Hail Mary", "O Maria, Reyna ng Pilipinas", etc.*

Another possibility could be a song about thanksgiving: thanksgiving in faith that God will hear our supplications, e.g. "In the Lord"-Taizé, "Give Thanks", etc.

After the prayer *It is strongly suggested to let the candles remain until they are consumed by themselves. People may remain in the prayer area in silent vigil. Instrumental music may be played.*

After the rite, the group or assembly may also do other relevant activities, such as:

1. Pray the Rosary
2. Celebrate the Mass, especially if the activity is done in the parish church
3. Do a procession to a significant place in the area, e.g. town plaza, etc., especially if this is done by a big assembly, where the candles can be left lit
4. Celebrate a rite of commissioning for election volunteers (e.g. poll-watchers, etc.)

TAIZÉ CHANTS

a. Holy Spirit Come To Us

Holy Spirit come to us,
kindle in us the fire of Your love.
Holy Spirit, come to us!
Holy Spirit, come to us!

b. Lord Jesus Christ

Lord Jesus Christ,
Your light shines within us
Let not my doubts
nor my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ,
Your light shines within us
Let my heart always welcome
Your love.

c. Liwanag ng Buong Mundo

Liwanag ng buong mundo,
Halina, Hesus, halina.
Liwanag ng puso ko. Aleluya!

d. In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful

In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful
In the Lord, I will rejoice
Look to God, do not be afraid
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near!
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near!

SONGS

1. Heal Our Land

If my people
will humble themselves,
humble themselves and pray
If they seek My face
and humble themselves
and turn from their wicked ways
I will hear from heaven
and forgive their sins
I will hear from heaven
and heal their land.

*Lord, heal our land!
Father, heal our land!
Hear our cry
and turn our nation back to You*

*Lord, heal our land,
Hear us, O Lord,
and heal our land
Forgive our sins
and heal our broken land.*

Lord, we bow our knee
We humble ourselves,
humble ourselves and pray
Lord, we seek Your face
We humble ourselves
And turn from our wicked ways
Father, in Your mercy,
Forgive our sins
Father, in Your mercy,
Come heal our land.

2. O Hesus Hilumin Mo

*O Hesus, hilumin Mo
Aking sugatang puso
Nang aking mahango
Kapwa kong kasimbigo*

Hapis at pait, Iyong patamisin
At hagkan ang sakit
Nang magningas ang rikit.

Aking sugatang diwa't katawan
Ay gawing daan
Ng 'Yong kaligtasan.

3. One Little Candle

It is better to light just one little
candle
than to stumble in the dark.
Better far that you light
just one little candle;
all you need is a tiny spark.
If we'd all say a prayer
that the world would be free,
what a wonderful dawn
of a new day we'd see.
And if everyone lit just one little
candle what a bright world
this would be!

4. One More Gift

*If there's one more gift I'd ask of
you, Lord
It would be peace here on earth
As gentle as Your children's
laughter
All around, all around.*

Your people have grown weary
from living in confusion
When will we realize
that neither heaven is
at peace when we live not in
peace.

Grant me serenity within,
for the confusions around
are mere reflections of
what's within, what's within me.

5. Panalangin sa Pagiging Bukas-Palad

Panginoon,
turuan Mo akong maging bukas-
palad,
turuan Mo akong maglingkod sa
lyo,
na magbigay ng ayon sa
nararapat
na walang hinihintay mula sa 'Yo.

Na makibakang di inaalintana
mga hirap na dinaranas.
Sa t'wina'y magsumikap na
hindi humahanap
ng kapalit na kaginhawahan,
na di naghihintay
kundi ang aking mabatid
na ang loob Mo'y s'yang
sinusundan.

6. Pananagutan

Walang sinuman ang nabubuhay
para sa sarili lamang
Walang sinuman ang namamatay
para sa sarili lamang.

*Tayong lahat ay may
pananagutan sa isa't isa
Tayong lahat ay tinipon ng Diyos
na kapiling Niya.*

Sa ating pagmamahalan
at paglilingkod sa kanino man
Tayo ay nagdadala ng balita
ng kaligtasan.

Sabay-sabay ngang mag-aawitan
ang mga bansa
Tayo'y tinuring ng Panginoon
bilang mga anak.