

Bridgefolk Litany of Witnesses

The Bridgefolk Litany of Witnesses is based upon the Litany of Saints from the Catholic tradition, which is used at a variety of times during the year but most notably at the Easter Vigil and other times when baptism is to take place.

A notable difference between the two litanies is the use of the phrase, “Pray with us.” As Bridgefolk, we seek to pray along with the saints. Recognizing ourselves as part of the Communion of Saints, we join our prayers with those who have gone before us in the faith.

The Litany of Witnesses began as a litany of martyrs. The word “martyr” is from the Greek word (*μάρτυρ, μάρτυρός*) for witness. You will notice that the most of the names in the litany are those of witnesses who shed their blood for their faith. Ultimately, the concept of “witness” for the purposes of this litany was broadened to include models of the faith such as Benedict and Scholastica, Menno Simons, and others whose lives were not taken from them, though the list remains one principally composed of the names of slain Christians.

The first section of names is made up of early Christian witnesses, including Mary, the Apostles, and other witnesses in our shared traditions. The second group of names represents Anabaptist witnesses, mostly from the 16th century, followed by Catholic martyrs from around the world and across the centuries. The final grouping represents those from a variety of other Christian traditions.

As in the traditional Litany of Saints, our litany concludes as we call upon Christ to hear us, to save us, and to send the Holy Spirit upon us.

Bridgefolk Litany of Witnesses

Cantor(s):

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Assembly:

R: Lord, have mercy.

R: Christ, have mercy.

R: Lord, have mercy.

Holy Mary, Mother of God

R: Pray with us.

Michael and all angels

R: Pray with us.

John the Baptist

R: Pray with us.

Peter and Paul

R: Pray with us.

Andrew and James

R: Pray with us.

Philip and Bartholomew

R: Pray with us.

Thomas and Matthew

R: Pray with us.

James, Jude and Simon

R: Pray with us.

Matthias and Barnabas

R: Pray with us.

John and Mary Magdalene

R: Pray with us.

Stephen and Agnes

R: Pray with us.

Perpetua and Felicity

R: Pray with us.

Maximilian and Cecilia

R: Pray with us.

Lawrence and Lucy

R: Pray with us.

Justin and Euphemia

R: Pray with us.

Benedict and Scholastica

R: Pray with us.

ALL: All you holy men and women, pray with us.

Michael Sattler

R: Pray with us.

Margaretha Sattler

R: Pray with us.

Menno Simons

R: Pray with us.

Jacob and Katharina Hutter

R: Pray with us.

Felix Manz and Conrad Grebel

R: Pray with us.

Georg Blaurock

R: Pray with us.

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Cantor(s):

Anneken Hendricks

Dirk Willems

John & Janneken van Muntsdorp

Willem and Levina Ghyselins

Arent and Ursula of Essen

Maeyken Wens

Anneke van den Hove

Maria and Ursula van Beckum

Eitelhans Langenmantel

Elizabeth Dirks

Assembly:

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

ALL: All you holy men and women, pray with us.

Paul Miki and companions

R: Pray with us.

Lucy Chakichi

R: Pray with us.

Agnes Tsau-Kou Ying

R: Pray with us.

Andrew Dung Lac and companions

R: Pray with us.

Andrew Kim Taegon

R: Pray with us.

Magdalen and Agatha

R: Pray with us.

Paul Yunji Chung

R: Pray with us.

Charles Lwanga and companions

R: Pray with us.

Rutilio Grande

R: Pray with us.

Oscar Romero

R: Pray with us.

Maura Clarke & Jean Donovan

R: Pray with us.

Ita Ford and Dorothy Kazel

R: Pray with us.

Dag Hammarskjold

R: Pray with us.

Franz Jägerstätter

R: Pray with us.

Dorothy Stang

R: Pray with us.

Stanley Rother

R: Pray with us.

ALL: All you holy men and women, pray with us.

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Cantor(s):

Josef Freinademetz

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Maximilian Kolbe

Christian de Chergé

Jose & Emilse Rodriguez

Shakeela Bibi

Bishoy Kamel and companions

Necati Aydin and companions

Etc....

Assembly:

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

R: Pray with us.

ALL: All you holy men and women, pray with us.

Lord, be merciful,

R. Lord, deliver us we pray.

From all evil,

R. Lord, deliver us we pray.

From every sin,

R. Lord, deliver us we pray.

From everlasting death,

R. Lord, deliver us we pray.

By your incarnation,

R. Lord, deliver us we pray.

By your Death and Resurrection

R. Lord, deliver us we pray.

By the outpouring...

R. Lord, deliver us we pray.

Of the Holy Spirit,

R. Lord, deliver us we pray.

ALL: Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.