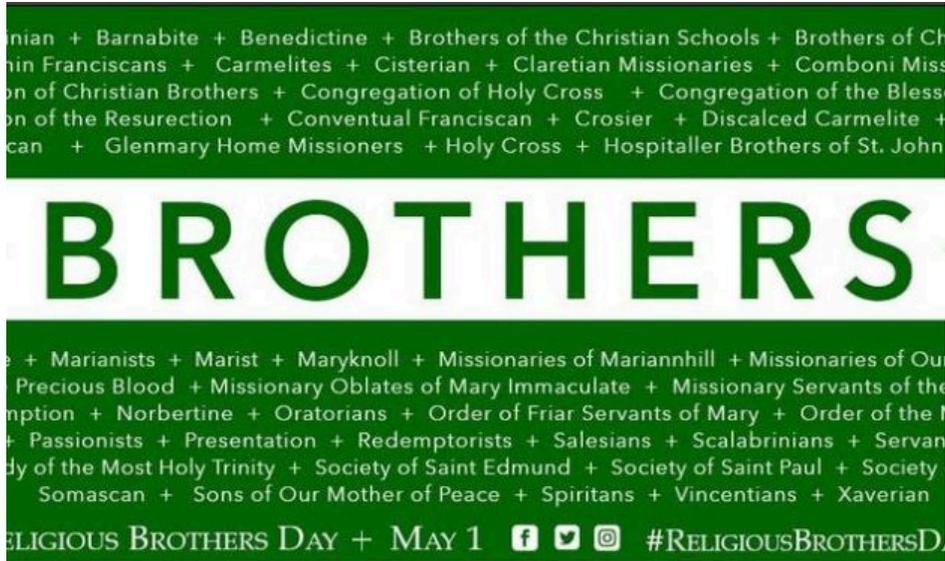


**PRAYER SERVICE**  
**BROTHERS' DAY MAY 1**



**CALL TO PRAYER**

*Leader:*

*Loving and Generous God, we recall today in our prayer that it is  
You who called us by name and asked us to follow You as Religious Brothers.*

*All:*

*Help us to grow in brotherly Love and generous Service to your  
Church as we experience it today.*

*Leader:*

*Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future.  
Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice.*

*All:*

*Inspire us today to know You better and open our hearts to hear  
Your call to live our lives in brotherly love.  
We ask this through our Brother and Lord. Amen*

## **CALL TO SING PRAISE**

**"We Are Called" by David Haas on You Tube**

**1. Come! live in the light!**

**Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God!**

**Refrain: We are called to act with justice.  
We are called to love tenderly.**

**We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

**2. Come! Open your heart!**

**Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,  
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!**

**3. Sing! Sing a new song!**

**Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters  
and brothers united in love!**

## **CALL TO LISTEN**

**HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**

**Thursday, 2 February 2017**

**To put ourselves as Religious Brothers, with Jesus in the midst of his people!  
Not as religious "activists", but as men and women who are constantly forgiven,  
men and women anointed in baptism and sent to share that anointing and the consolation of  
God with everyone.**

**To put ourselves, as Religious Brothers, with Jesus in the midst of his people.  
For this reason, "we, Religious Brothers, sense the challenge of finding and sharing a  
'mystique'  
of living together, of mingling and encounter, of embracing and supporting one another,  
of stepping into this flood tide which, while chaotic,  
can [with the Lord] become a genuine experience of fraternity, a caravan of solidarity, a  
sacred pilgrimage...**

*If we were able to take this route, it would be so good, so soothing, so liberating and hope-filled!*

*To go out of ourselves and to join others” ([Evangelii Gaudium, 87](#)) is not only good for us; it also turns our lives and hopes into a hymn of praise.*

*But we will only be able to do this if we take up the dreams of our elders and turn them into prophecy.*

*Let us, as Brothers, accompany Jesus as he goes forth to meet his people, to be in the midst of his people.*

*Let us go forth, not with the complaining or anxiety of those who have forgotten how to prophesy*

*because they failed to take up the dreams of their elders, but with serenity and songs of praise.*

*Not with apprehension but with the patience of those who trust in the Spirit, the Lord of dreams and prophecy.*

*In this way, let us share what is truly our own: the hymn that is born of hope.*

### **PERIOD OF SILENCE TO REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE AS BROTHER**

#### **SHARING TIME**

*Brothers are invited to share one word or a sentence which describes your life as Brother.*

#### **CALL TO RESPOND**

##### *Psalm 85*

*Beloved, how gracious You are to your people;*

*You restore their souls time and time again.*

*You forgive their distractions  
when they wander far from You;*

*You give them new life.*

*Yes, You bless them and raise up new hope;*

*You awaken their hearts to love.*

*Restore us again, O Spirit of Truth;*

*burn us with the refining Fire of Love!*

*We cannot live separated from You;*

*cast out the demons of fear, doubt, and illusion.*

*Revive us again, we pray; may your people rejoice in You!*

*Have compassion on your people, O Holy One,  
and grant us your forgiveness.*

*Listen, O People, in the silent Chapel of your heart;*

*and the Beloved will speak of peace to you,  
to the hidden saints, to all who turn their hearts to Love.  
Surely new life is at hand for those who reverence Love;  
O, that harmony might dwell among the nations.*

*Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will embrace one another.  
Wisdom will spring up from the ground  
and truth will look down from the sky.  
Yes, the Eternal Giver will grant what is good,  
and the lands will yield abundantly.  
Mercy and compassion are Love's way;  
You will guide our footsteps upon the path of peace  
as we recognize with open hearts that You are our peace.*

*~ Nan C. Merrill, in Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness.*

### **CALL TO INTERCESSION**

*Lord of the Harvest,  
BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.  
Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things, we pray. R.*

### **RESPONSE**

*May we, as prophetic Religious Brothers,  
Make a joyful noise, a mighty uproar and sometimes a holy mess in  
proclaiming the beautiful Gospel of Jesus Christ!*

*Lord of the Harvest,  
INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual and brotherly love and giving—  
for vocations blossom in the good soil of brotherhood, we pray. R.*

*Lord of the Harvest,  
INSTILL all of us in religious life with the confidence  
and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life  
consecrated to you as Brothers, we pray. R.*

*Lord of the Harvest,  
UNITE us to Jesus, our Brother, through prayer and sacrament, so that we, Brothers, may  
cooperate  
with You in building Your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace in our various  
ministries. We pray. R.*

— *Pope Francis*

***OUR FATHER***

***CLOSING PRAYER***

*God, ever New, ever Evolving and ever Present,  
May we as Religious Brothers be like your prophets of old bringing God's message of hope,  
consolation and conversion to the world mired in insecurity, crisis and anxiety.  
May we be like great prophetic whirlwinds unsettling and disturbing those who have forgotten  
your Word of Life.  
May we, with our witness, bring your Light to those who sit in the shadow of darkness and  
despair.  
We ask our prayer, O Loving God, through your Son and our Brother, Jesus the Christ.  
Amen.*

***Blessed Edmund pray for us!  
Live Jesus in our hearts forever!***