



## Discernment Prayer Service

As the nominees enter more deeply into their discernment let us support them in prayer as they consider the movement of the Spirit –what may be of God and what not be of God. This prayer service may be used in place of the readings, canticle, and intercessions of Morning or Evening Prayer.

### **A Reading from Scripture**

A capable woman who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.  
The hearts of her sisters trusts in her,  
And they will have no lack of gain...  
Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
But a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
And let her works praise her in the city gates.

*Adapted from Proverbs 31*

### **A Reading from Catherine McAuley:**

God never calls any person to any state or any end without giving the means and necessary helps to carry them through all the difficulties of it.

*Spirit of the Institute*

### **Reflection:**

How do these words touch my heart?  
What would I ask for the nominees?

*(over)*

## Discernment Prayer Service *(continued)*

### Antiphon for Canticle:

I prayed, and prudence was given me:

I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.

*Prayer of Solomon*

### Intercessions:

Let us pray for those nominated and attending the weekend of discernment that they may act for the good of the Mid-Atlantic Community, for their own good, and for the good of those we all serve in sincere love.

Any one who desires speaks one of the following prayer lines. For the gift of wisdom that our sisters may discern God's movement, we pray.

*All respond:*        **Spirit of God, give them freedom of heart.**

For the gift of understanding that our sisters may know their own uniqueness and the gift they are within the Mid-Atlantic Community, we pray

*All respond:*        **Spirit of God, give them freedom of heart.**

For the gift of counsel that our sisters may know and cooperate with the movement of the Spirit, we pray

*All respond:*        **Spirit of God, give them freedom of heart.**

For the gift of fortitude that our sisters may accept the challenge the Spirit offers in their lives, we pray

*All respond:*        **Spirit of God, give them freedom of heart.**

For the gift of knowledge that our sisters may recognize the goodness and holiness of our members, we pray

*(over)*

## Discernment Prayer Service *(continued)*

### Intercessions:

*All respond:*       **Spirit of God, give them freedom of heart.**

For the gift of piety that our sisters may deepen their awareness of the compassion of God, we pray

*All respond:*       **Spirit of God, give them freedom of heart.**

For the gift of fear of the Lord to strengthen the movement of God's love in our lives, we pray

*All respond:*       **Spirit of God, give them freedom of heart.**

### The Lord's Prayer

*Let us pray:*

Holy Wisdom,  
Spirit of Truth,  
Be with our sisters who will be called to the  
ministry of Mid-Atlantic leadership.  
Strengthen them that they may hear the gentle nudging of your Spirit.  
May they discern with care and courage.  
Knowing that it is you, gentle God,  
who hold them with tenderness and mercy.

God of Mercy,  
Stir up in them the same passion  
That impelled Catherine McAuley to respond to the needs of her time.  
Protect them from weariness and anxiety.  
Bless them with the sure knowledge of your presence and providence,  
Now and always.  
This we ask in Jesus's name.  
Amen.