

Opening and Closing Prayers for Fraternity Meetings

1. The prayers suggested in the following are given only as a sample.

Opening prayers

2. When the members have gathered together in a suitable place, before any business is taken up, the one chairing the meeting may begin the community prayer in a manner similar to this:

Minister:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Minister:

Most high, all powerful, good God, praise, glory and honor and all blessing are yours.

*All: Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks,
and serve him with great humility.*

Minister:

**Let us pray.
All-powerful, most holy, most high and supreme God, all good,
supreme good, total good, you who alone are good: we give you all
praise, all glory, all thanks, all honor, all blessing and every good.
So be it. So be it.**

All: Amen.

or:

**Let us pray.
Most high, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of our hearts
and give us right faith, firm hope and perfect charity,
with wisdom and insight, O Lord,
that we may accomplish your holy and true will.**

All: Amen.

3. A short reading may follow, from Sacred Scripture (SFO Ritual, Appendix I, part 1). or from the writings of St. Francis (Appendix I, part 2).

Closing Prayers

4. If it is opportune, there may be time for spontaneous prayer or for intercessions for the general needs of the Church and the particular needs of the fraternity. Then the Minister may use the prayer of St. Francis, as follows, or another of his/her own choice.

Minister:

**Let us pray. Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God:
grant us in our misery that we do for your sake alone
what we know you want us to do,
and always want what pleases you;
so that, cleansed and enlightened interiorly
and fired with the flame of the Holy Spirit,
we may be able to follow in the footsteps of your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
and so make our way to you, Most high,
by your grace alone,
you who live and rule in perfect Trinity and simple Unity,
and are glorified, God all-powerful, forever and ever.**

All: Amen.

or:

**Let us pray. Most generous God,
you are the giver of peace and the lover of charity.
Grant to us your people true harmony with your will
and help us to overcome all temptations
that could disturb our peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

5. If a priest or deacon is present, he may give St. Francis' Blessing to Brother Leo:

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May the Lord bless you and keep you.

All: Amen

May His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

All: Amen.

May He look upon you with kindness and give you His peace.

All: Amen

May the Lord bless you,

+ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.