

PRAYER TO ACCOMPANY THE PILGRIMAGE CROSS 2012-2013

LEADER: The grace of Jesus Christ our Lord, who for our sake hung upon the cross, be with you all.

ALL: And with your Spirit

LEADER: My dear brothers and sisters, today we gather alongside our Archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Pilgrimage Cross. For 20 years, the youngchurch has walked together in faith and in celebration bearing this cross- a replica of the World Youth Day cross from Denver in 1993.

ONE OR MANY VOICES: > Let us venerate in faith the eternal plan by which God has made the cross of Christ the pre-eminent sign of his mercy.

> As we look upon the cross, let us call to mind that on it Christ brought to completion the sacrament of his love for the Church.

> As we bow down before the cross, let us remember that in His own blood, Christ has removed all divisions and out of the many nations, created the one people of God. .

> As we venerate the cross, let us reflect that we are ourselves Christ's disciples and must therefore follow him, willingly taking up our own cross each day. .

> Let us, then, take part with all our hearts in this celebration, so that we may grasp the mystery of the cross more clearly and experience its power more deeply.

LEADER: Let us pray.

Lord,
Your Son reconciled us to you
By suffering on the cross and then returned to you in glory.
May your people who have raise this cross as a sign of redemption find in it
protection and strength; may they shoulder their own crosses in the spirit of the
Gospel until their journey ends.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

<<< A brief commentary could be offered connecting this event into the pilgrimage and other events where the pilgrimage cross will be present. A further connection might be made to the power of the 'sign of the cross' as well >>>

LEADER: O God, to save the whole human race, you allowed your Son to undergo the agony of the cross
Listen kindly to our prayer, that we who on earth confess the mystery of redemption may in
heaven receive the glorious reward won by our Redeemer.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

< A blessing, if appropriate, could be offered here >

ALL: Amen.