

### Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

God of heavenly wisdom, You have given us Mary,  
Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor.

Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life  
and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.

O Mother of Good Counsel,  
Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women,  
intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous,  
and loving leaders of the Church.

Help us, dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your Son.

May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God's creation,  
and compassion for all God's children.

May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God  
and may God's gifts of faith and living hope  
prepare us for the fullness of the world to come.

Amen.



*To learn more about the Council and to become a  
member, please go to [nccw.org](http://nccw.org)*



**Hour of Prayer for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the National Council of Catholic Women**

*Service Program*

## Opening Hymn

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*(Leader)* Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill the hearts of your faithful,  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit,  
And they shall be created  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

*(All)* O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Please respond to each blessing with "Thank you, Lord"*

*After leader finishes litany of thanksgiving, we pray together:* Loving Father, we ask you for holiness to be effective servants and model the role of true Christians. We thank you, Lord, for this first century, and we humbly ask that you continue to shower our NCCW with Your blessings in the future! We make this prayer in the name of Your Divine Son, Jesus, who is united with You and the Holy Spirit, the One True God, forever and ever. Amen.

*(Please be seated.)*

### Sacred Scripture

A reading from the Book of Ruth, 1:1-18 (NABRE)

*Silent Reflection*

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke, 1:39-45 (NABRE)

*Silent Reflection*

### Marian Hymn

## Prayers of the Faithful

*Please respond, Lord hear our prayer.  
After petitions, we pray together:*

Heavenly Father, bless us, our families, our parishes, and the work of the National Council of Catholic Women as we now place these petitions before You with heartfelt humility knowing they will be answered in Your time and according to Your will through Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*

*Leader will invite all to closing prayer(s).*

### Centennial Anniversary Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for the National Council of Catholic Women's 100 years of service to the Universal Church. We are thankful for the Bishops who founded NCCW in 1920 and for the beautiful and inspiring legacy provided by our leaders, Spiritual Advisors, and NCCW sisters who have preceded us.

We give thanks to Our Lady of Good Counsel for guiding us to be loving and courageous leaders in building the Kingdom of God. Lord, we pray that You stir the hearts of all Catholic women to realize the value of serving Your Church and society through membership in the NCCW. Bless us with many more workers in the vineyard as we embark on our next century of Spirituality, Leadership, and Service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### Closing Hymn

## St. Therese of Lisieux

1873-1897

Canonized in May 1925 by Pope Pius XI - Named a Doctor of the Church in October 1997 by Pope John Paul II

"You know well that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them."

Excerpts from a letter written October 20, 1888 as quoted in *The Story of a Soul*, Epilogue, Letters of Sister Therese to her sister, Celine.

Dear Jesus! tis Thy Holy Face  
Is here the start that guides my way;  
Thy countenance, so full of grace,  
Is heaven on earth, for me, today.

...Oh, leave on me some impress faint.  
Of Thy sweet, humble, patient Face,  
And soon I shall become a saint,  
And draw men to Thy saving grace.

So, in the secret of Thy Face,  
Oh! hide me, hide me, Jesus blest!  
There let me find its hidden grace,  
Its holy fires, and, in heaven's rest,  
It's rapturous kiss, in Thy embrace!

Excerpts of "Canticle to the Holy Face" written August 12, 1895, translation quoted in the First Part of "Poems of St. Teresa, Carmelite of Lisieux, known as the "Little Flower of Jesus" in *The Story of a Soul*.

*Pause for Reflection*

*(Please stand.)*

### Hymn of Praise

### Litany of Women Saints

*Please respond, Pray for us*

## St. Hildegard of Bingen

1098-1179

Canonized in May 2012 - Named a Doctor of the Church in October 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI

"Listen: there was once a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground, and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself but because the air bore it along. Thus am I, a feather on the breath of God."

From her first major visionary work *Scivias (or Sci vias Domini, Know the Way of the Lord)*

*Pause for Reflection*

"O great the wonder  
that in a hidden female body  
a king entered.  
God did this  
as humility rises above all.  
And O great the happiness in that woman,  
because the evil that came from woman,  
this one then swept away.  
She built up sweet-smelling virtues  
and adorned Heaven yet more than  
she had first marred earth."

*Marian Antiphon, Number 11, Hildegard of Bingen: Visionary Life* by Sabina Flanagan, page 110

*Pause for Reflection*

## St. Catherine of Siena

1347-1380

Canonized in June 1461 by Pope Pius II – Named a Doctor of the Church in October 1970 by Pope Paul VI

“You have said, Eternal Father, that through the love which You have for Your rational creatures and the prayers and the many virtues and labors of Your servants, You would do mercy to the world, and reform the Church, and thus give us refreshment; wherefore do not delay, but turn the eye of Your mercy towards us, for You must first reply to us before we can cry out with the voice of Your mercy. Open the door of Your inestimable love which You have given us through the door of Your Word.”

*The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena*, A treatise of Prayer, “How this devout soul, praising and thanking GOD, made a prayer for the Holy Church.

*Pause for Reflection*

“Oh eternal Trinity! oh Godhead! Which Godhead gave value to the Blood of Your Son, You, oh eternal Trinity, are a deep Sea, into which the deeper I enter the more I find; and the more I find the more I seek; the soul cannot be satiated in Your abyss, for she continually hungers after You, the eternal Trinity, desiring to see You with light in Your light.”

*The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena*, A treatise of Obedience, “How this most devout soul, thanking and praising God, makes prayer for the whole world and for the Holy Church, and commending the virtue of faith brings this work to an end.

*Pause for Reflection*

“If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze.”

St. Catherine of Siena in a letter to Father Dom Stefano Marconi, adapted by St. Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day 2000.

*Pause for Reflection*

## St. Teresa of Avila

1515-1582

Canonized in March 1622 by Pope Gregory XV – Named a Doctor of the Church in September 1970 by Pope Paul VI

"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things pass away: God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things. He who has God finds he lacks nothing.  
God alone suffices."

*Poem found in St. Teresa's breviary, in her own handwriting, as cited on October 15, 2015 by Gretchen Filz at getfed.com*



“The soul may also place itself in the presence of Christ, and accustom itself to many acts of love directed to His sacred Humanity, and remain in His presence continually, and speak to Him, pray to Him in its necessities, and complain to Him of its troubles; be merry with Him in its joys, and yet not forget Him because of its joys. All this it may do without set prayers, but rather with words befitting its desires and its needs.”

*The Autobiography of St Teresa of Avila*, Chapter XII, paragraph 3

*Pause for Reflection*