

OPENING PRAYER
Aug. 16, 2022

**A Woman Who Loves Without Measure:
A Woman of Obedience, of Faithfulness
and of Service**

Introduction:

Leader 1: **Obedience** in everyday life pleases God. Hence, our Foundress says: "Obedience is the shortest way to heaven". When we reflect Jesus' character through our interactions with others, we bring glory to Him. The story of Ruth's sacrifice and hard work to provide for Naomi reflected her obedience to God. The book of Ruth showed the Israelites the blessings that obedience could bring. It showed them the loving, faithful nature of their God.

Leader 2: The story of Ruth is a powerful story of a woman who loves without measure. She is a woman of **faithfulness**, love and care. She shows us a love between a daughter and her mother-in-law. This fidelity is ultimately a reflection of God's faithfulness to us. "If you wish, my dear daughter, that He should grant you this treasure, it is necessary that you also should try to please Him in everything and be a faithful spouse in sufferings as in enjoyments, in times of temptation as in tranquillity." (Magdalene to Giovanna Prada, 13.7.1826).

Leader 1: Finally, the story of Ruth teaches us **selfless loving and service** to others. She gives us an example how to protect and provide for the most vulnerable in our society – the foreigners, the orphans and the widows. Our Foundress believes that we have a big heart capable of embracing others who are different from us. "Therefore, be brave, take courage to walk the ways of the Lord, but remember that you have a heart capable of loving much" (13.7.1826).

Reading: (Leader 2): Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to go back and abandon you! Wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there be buried. May the LORD do thus to me, and more, if even death separates me from you!"

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Music Video (Song of Ruth (Wherever you go))

Psalm of Blessing:

Left Side: Bless our heads so that all our thoughts come forth from the well of Your Being and fill us with your grace and peace.

Right Side: Response:

Anoint us with the oil of integrity O God, and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit.

Left Side: Bless our eyes so that we may see Your presence and providence clearly especially during this period of listening and discernment.

Right Side: Response:

Anoint us with the oil of integrity O God, and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit.

Left Side: Bless our ears so that we may hear the cry of the poor and the vulnerable around us and the whisper of Your word.

Right Side: Response:

Anoint us with the oil of integrity O God, and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit.

Left Side: Bless our lips so that we may proclaim the Good News of God's love especially when we go back to our own mission fields.

Right Side: Response:

Anoint us with the oil of integrity O God, and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit.

Left Side: Bless our hands to hold and heal the many lives that are broken, that we may bring hopelessness to hope.

Right Side: Response:

Anoint us with the oil of integrity O God, and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit.

Left Side: Bless our feet to walk Your ways to stand up for justice unafraid.

Right Side: Response:

Anoint us with the oil of integrity O God, and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit.

Left Side: Bless our hearts with warmth and compassion and a genuine generosity toward all the vulnerable of the earth.

Right Side: Response:

Anoint us with the oil of integrity O God, and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit.

Left Side: Bless our soul for ministry that we might have the courage to respond with our whole being to the daily demands of grace.

Right Side: Response:

Anoint us with the oil of integrity O God, and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit.

All: All: We are your women-disciples, O God. May we live for, and love one another.

Bless our hands to Your service, our feet to Your path, our hearts to Your purpose, our spirit to dwell in the depths of Your Spirit for your glory now and forever. Amen.