

**A Litany for Discernment** *(the individual parts of this could be used separately).*

We give you thanks, O God, for your love and faithfulness shown to us through all generations, for sending your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world and the Lord of our lives. And now we pray that you will grant us discernment so that we may see how you are calling us to serve you in these changing times, we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, show us the way.**

O God, our Creator, you have called us through your Son to share the Good News of Jesus, to teach disciples and to work for the establishment of your Kingdom here on earth. Give us a strong commitment to this calling, we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, show us the way.**

Send a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese that we may hear your call to us and clearly see the path you are setting before our feet. Give us the courage and faith to follow you on that path, we pray to you, O God. **Lord, show us the way.**

Bless, O Lord, those who are called to create a Mission Action Plan for this diocese, that they may in all things be led by your Spirit and guided in all wisdom and understanding. Give them a strong faith, a lively hope, and a clear understanding of your priorities for us at this time, we pray to you, O God. **Lord, show us the way.**

Support and sustain all those who work in every parish of this diocese for the building up of your Kingdom. Bless them with faith, hope and love and help them to see how they may continue to serve you in the communities to which you have called them, we pray to you, O God. **Lord, show us the way.**

Guide your people throughout the process of electing a new bishop. Give us wisdom to discern who you are calling to be our chief pastor, and give that person the wisdom, faith, courage and love they need to follow your call, we pray to you, O God. **Lord, show us the way.**

Bless the people of this diocese as we are discerning so many matters in the months to come. Help us to hear and be faithful to your call to us, keep our hearts burning with the fire of your love so that we may work as one body to carry out your holy will, and bless all our work done for you, we pray to you, O God. **Lord, show us the way, Amen.**



The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

**The Collect for A Season of Prayer and Discernment**

O God our Creator and Redeemer, it pleases you to invite us into the mission of Jesus, establishing the reign of God on earth. You promised through your Son to send the Spirit upon us, to teach us everything. We pray that you will send a fresh outpouring of your Spirit on this Diocese. Grant us clear vision and wisdom to discern what you are now calling us to do and the courage, love and creativity to perform it to your glory. We ask it in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. *(by the Rev. Michelle Bull)*

**Prayers for Discernment**

O God, our Creator and Redeemer, you see all things and we see so little. Forgive us for the times we have trusted in our own wisdom and forgotten to seek yours. Forgive us for the times when the task set before us has seemed impossible and we have despaired, either retreating from the situation or forgetting your faithfulness. Help us now, we pray, as we seek to follow you faithfully. Give us your wisdom, your vision, and trust in your resources to meet the needs of our time and place. Increase our faith, broaden our vision, help us to find creative solutions to the problems we encounter. Raise up leaders who will guide us in following you faithfully. Above all help us to rely on you, day by day. We ask it in the name of the one we love, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## At a Time of Election or Appointment in the Church

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your Church with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(p. 676, BAS)*

Guide, we beseech thee, Almighty God, by the light of thy Holy Spirit, the counsels of the Bishops, Clergy, and Laity of this Diocese, that thy Church may dwell in peace, and fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. *(p. 43, BCP, slightly adapted)*

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts: Grant thy blessing, we humbly beseech thee, to the clergy and laity soon to assemble for the election of a Bishop; and give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that a chief Pastor may be chosen who shall minister before thee to the glory of thy Name, the good government of the flock committed to his or her charge, and the welfare of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. *(p. 44, BCP)*

## For a Synod

Almighty and everlasting Father, you have given the Holy Spirit to abide with us forever: Bless, we pray, with his grace and presence, the bishops and the other clergy and the laity of this diocese discerning our future, that your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, your Son Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*(from the American Book of Common Prayer Occasional Collects, adapted)*

## A Litany for Faith / Decisions

God, sometimes it feels like we spend a lot of time stumbling around in the dark.

**Light the path, God.**

There are so many choices.

**Light the path, God.**

So many people who want just a little piece of our lives.

**Light the path, God.**

So many things that take up our time.

**Light the path, God.**

So many ways to mess up our lives.

**Light the path, God.**

We are not alone.

**Light the path, God.**

The dark is a scary place, but we are not alone.

**Light the path, God.**

You are with us, God.

**Light the path, God.**

We may not know where we are going.

**Light the path, God.**

We can't see the end of the path.

**Light the path, God.**

We will trust you, God.

**Light the path, God.**

We will believe in your light.

**Light the path, God. Amen.**

*from The Book of Uncommon Prayer by Steven L. Case. p. 97*

## The Prayers of the People

### A Litany for Guidance

God, sometimes we can't even find the door.

**Be our light on the path.**

We stumble around in the dark.

**Be our light on the path.**

We lose our way.

**Be our light on the path.**

We can't see even where to put our feet.

**Be our light on the path.**

Let alone see the end of the journey.

**Be our light on the path.**

We will stop and take a deep breath.

**Be our light on the path.**

We will open our eyes to the possibilities.

**Be our light on the path.**

We will pray for light.

**Be our light on the path.**

Show us the way, God.

**Be our light on the path.**

Calm our minds and soothe our souls.

**Be our light on the path.**

Show us the way and we will go.

**Be our light on the path. Amen.**

*from The Book of Uncommon Prayer by Steven L. Case. p.101*

## The Prayer of Thomas Merton

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me

Nor do I really know myself,

And the fact that I think I am following your will

Does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you

Does in fact please you.

And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this,

You will lead me by the right road

Though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though,

I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

And you will never leave me to face my struggles alone. Amen.

Lord, our God and our loving Father, you have made us to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill our deepest longings. We know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead us to you. But of them all, there is one especially by which you want us to come to you. Since we will do what you want of us, we pray you, send your Holy Spirit to us: into our minds, to show us what you want of us; into our hearts, to give us the determination to do it, and to do it with all our love, with all our mind, and with all of our strength right to the end. Jesus, we trust in you. Amen

*(adapted from:*

[www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-to-know-ones-vocation.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-to-know-ones-vocation.cfm) )

### **A Prayer to Know God's Will**

Lord grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by You, always follow your plans, and perfectly accomplish your holy will. Grant that in all things, great and small, today and all the days of my life, I may do whatever You may desire of me. Help me to respond to the slightest promptings of your grace, so that I may be your trustworthy instrument. May your will be done in time and eternity, by me, in me, and through me. Amen. *St. Therese of Lisieux*

### **For the Mission of the Church**

Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love in this Diocese. We ask this in his name and for his sake. *(p. 676, BAS adapted)*

### **For the Neighbourhood**

O Lord, our Creator, by your holy prophet you taught your ancient people to seek the welfare of the cities in which they lived. We commend the provinces of NS and PEI to your care, that they may be kept free from social strife and decay. Give us the clarity of vision, the strength of purpose and the deep concern for others, that by the power of your Spirit, we may create here a community of justice and peace where your will may be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. *(p. 680, BAS adapted)*

O Lord our God, you have made all races and nations to be one family, and you sent your Son Jesus Christ to proclaim the good news of salvation to all people. Pour out your Spirit on the whole of creation, bring the peoples of these provinces into your fellowship, and hasten the coming of your kingdom here on earth as in heaven. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *(from litany #17, p. 125, BAS adapted)*

### **For the Extension of the Church**

Almighty God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give commandment to the Apostles that they should go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature: Grant to us whom thou has called into thy Church, a ready will to obey thy Word; and fill us with a hearty desire to make thy way known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *(p. 41, BCP)*

Almighty and everlasting God who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant to this Diocese all things needful for its spiritual welfare. Strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent. Remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy holy Church, to the honour and glory of thy blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. *(p. 43, BCP)*

O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life, impart to us thoughts better than our own thoughts, and prayers better than our own prayers, and powers better than our own powers, that we may spend and be spent in the ways of love and goodness, after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*- Eric Milner-White and G W Briggs, Daily Prayer (1941)*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery, and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence carry out the work of our salvation: and let the whole world feel and see that things which were cast down are being raised up and things which had grown old are being made new and that all things are returning to perfection through him from whom they took their origin, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Gelasian Sacramentary (8th century)*