

APPENDIX 14

The following are suggested prayers for use during the election process.

PRAYERS DURING THE ELECTION PROCESS

A. PRAYERS AT THE FIRST SESSION

I. Opening Prayers

If the initial worship service is followed immediately or very shortly by the first session of the election chapter, the presiding officer may begin the session simply by an invitation to silent prayer and then add a prayer of his own or one of the prayers given below.

If there is a greater interval of time between the initial worship service and the first session of the election chapter, this session may begin with the singing of a hymn to the Holy Spirit. This may be followed by brief silent prayer and a prayer offered by the presiding officer.

1. Almighty Father,
look with favor upon these monks
who have gathered to elect their abbot.
Guide them by your Holy Spirit
to choose a man after your own heart,
who may lead them always into the ways of peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

2. Lord our God,
your Son promised to be with those who gather in
his name.
Make us aware of his presence among us,
and enlighten us to understand what is right and
good in your sight.

May the deliberations of this day
serve to bring these servants of yours together
peacefully into one family
and keep them united in brotherly love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

3. Gracious Father,
visit us with your Holy Spirit.
Open our hearts to the truth
and enable us to speak it in love.
Give us the wisdom and courage,
patience and vision
to seek only your glory and the good of all.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

4. *The presiding officer begins:*
We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
yet gathered in your name.
All continue:
Come to us, Spirit of holiness,
remain with us and enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength to know your will,
to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.
Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God,
sharing the glory of Father and Son.
Help us to act prudently, impartially,
and with integrity.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true,
so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you
and that we may receive the reward
promised to good and faithful servants.

II. Concluding Prayers

At the end of the first session (and/or its recess) the presiding officer may invite all to say the Lord's prayer or the "Glory be to the Father..." together; or he may offer one of the prayers given below.

1. Almighty Father, we thank you for your guidance. Continue to guide this community by your Spirit so that it may elect from among the candidates the man most able to govern and serve the community at this time.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
2. Almighty and eternal God,
you know the longing of human hearts;
you guide everything in wisdom and love.
May what has been done here this day
serve the cause of harmony and justice,
so that this community may enjoy enduring peace
and prosperity.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
3. We give you thanks, most gracious Father,
for the gifts we have received through your
inspiration.
Renew in us now
the Spirit that guided our holy Father Benedict.
Filled with this Spirit
may we be eager to love what he loved
and to put into practice what he taught.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

B. PRAYERS AT THE ELECTION SESSION

I. Opening Prayers

If the election session begins shortly after a celebration of the Eucharist or an hour of the Liturgy of the Hours, the presiding officer may open the session with an invitation to silent prayer and then add a prayer of his own or one of the prayers given below.

If the election session does not follow shortly upon the Eucharist or a prayer service, the opening prayer offered by the presiding officer may be preceded by a hymn to the Holy Spirit.

1. Almighty Father,
 guide our hearts and minds
 throughout this election.
 May we be led entirely by the Holy Spirit
 and so elect to be our abbot
 the man most able to fulfill this task.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

2. God our Father,
 you sent the Sun of Justice
 to rise for our justification
 and to enlighten the darkness of our world.
 May he now illumine our minds and hearts
 with the presence of his Spirit,
 so that upon completing the task before us
 we may in truth say with the prophet:
 "I have not concealed your justice
 within my heart;
 your truth and your salvation I have declared."
 We make this prayer
 through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns
 with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

3. Gracious God and Father,
you have gathered us here as one family
so that together we may seek your will.
Guide us by your Holy Spirit,
the Spirit of wisdom and truth,
the Spirit of compassion and peace.
And when we have come to see
what you ask of us,
help us to accomplish it in unity of heart.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

II. Concluding Prayers

If the election session is temporarily recessed before there has been an election, the presiding officer may conclude this particular session with a prayer; he may use one of the orations given above for the conclusion of the first session or offer one of his own. If there is an election, the session is concluded by a thanksgiving service (see Appendix 15).