



FACILITATOR GUIDE

FOR THE "FAMILY LITANIES" SERIES

This guide is offered to help those who gather others in prayer — within families, small groups, or parish settings — to use the *Family Litanies Series* prayers in a way that remains faithful to their purpose.

These litanies are a form of prayer that opens space for God to work gently within each person. They are not meant to direct outcomes, resolve situations, or lead others to conclusions.

The Spirit of Facilitation

The role of the facilitator is simple:

- to **begin the prayer**
- to **hold a peaceful rhythm**
- to **protect silence and freedom**
- to **avoid explanation or interpretation during the prayer**

You are not guiding people to an answer. You are helping create a space where God may be encountered.

Before You Begin

Keep preparation simple and interior:

- Take a brief moment of personal prayer
- Ask for the grace to remain attentive and unhurried
- Release any desire to manage outcomes or responses

If helpful, you may say a single sentence such as:

“Let us take a quiet moment to place ourselves in God’s presence.”

Avoid extended introductions or explanations.

How to Pray the Litany Together

The facilitator reads the invocations and petitions slowly and the group responds together with the given response.

Allow a brief pause between each line:

- Do not rush.
- Do not fill silence.

If the group is small, a gentle, unforced rhythm is enough.

The Role of Silence

Silence is not a gap to be filled.

It is part of the prayer.

At times, you may allow:

- a longer pause after a section
- a brief moment of stillness before the closing prayer

Let the silence remain natural, not structured or announced.

Freedom Within the Prayer

Each person enters the prayer differently.

Some may feel peace, resistance, emotion, or very little at all.

All of this is welcome.

There is no need to:

- explain experiences
- compare responses
- or draw conclusions

After the Litany

When the prayer concludes you may end quietly or offer a simple closing such as:
“We entrust all that has arisen to the Lord.”

If sharing is invited, keep it optional and simple:
“If anyone would like to share briefly, you are welcome.”

Do not analyze or respond to what is shared.
Receive it with respect and silence.

Important Pastoral Notes

These litanies:

- do not replace spiritual direction, pastoral care, or counseling
- do not resolve complex situations
- do not determine decisions about relationships or boundaries

They are a **prayerful beginning**, not a conclusion.

A Final Word for Facilitators

You do not need to carry the group.
You are not responsible for what unfolds in another person’s heart.

Your role is to remain present, peaceful, and attentive.

God is already at work.

Optional Closing Prayer for Facilitators

*Lord,
You are present in what is spoken
and in what remains unspoken.

Receive what has been offered here today.
Continue Your work gently within each heart.

We entrust all things to You.
Amen.*