

**DECLARATION ON PRAYER  
BROTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE PRAYER WEEK HELD  
AT BUJEDO July 20-26, 1997**

We fifty Brothers from the ARLEP Districts who participated in the Prayer Week in Bujedo in July 1997, after having gone through the experience of this meeting, express our convictions and suggestions.

**WE BELIEVE**

- We believe that in the same measure that we are conscious that we are loved by God we discover the love that we owe to our Brothers and our students. One must let God be God.
- We believe that prayer is a gratuitous gift from God that nourishes our lives, stimulates our persons, empowers our educational ministry and energizes our communities.
- We believe that life and all reality have to be present in personal and community prayer “to speak with God about life and persons and to speak to persons about God”.
- We believe that both personal and community prayer is based on the three basic vocational elements of the Brother: consecration, life in community and ministry.
- We believe that the exercise of recalling the presence of God, meditation on the Bible and spiritual reading all contribute to maintaining the encounter with God as a lively activity.
- We believe that the Word of God and daily realities are the basic pillars of the prayer of the Brother.
- We believe that the climate of fraternity makes community prayer flourish and, in turn, community prayer fosters the life of fraternity in the Brothers’ community.
- We believe that prayer is the unifying element of fraternal relationships and shared mission.
- We believe in a prayer that does not differentiate between the duties of our state and those of our sanctification.
- We believe that it is necessary to share the experience of God in community, thus fostering shared prayer.
- We believe that mental prayer demands a method, effort and creativity to achieve a basic level of contemplation and union with God.

## **WE VALUE**

- We value the example of fidelity and gratuity of the Brothers who encourage the life of personal, community and collegial prayer.
- We value the Brothers who pass on to others their experience of God, especially those who teach and accompany young people, teachers and parents in the life of prayer in schools.
- We value initiatives in the animation of community prayer and during significant times in prayer meetings.
- We value the active and joyous presence of the Brothers in the daily prayer life of the community.

## **WE ARE COMMITTED**

- We are committed, and we ask others to share our commitment, to make prayer integral and give unity to the life of the Brother in its fundamental elements: consecration, life of community and educational and apostolic ministry in such a way that prayer leads to commitment which leads to prayer.
- We are committed to opening our hearts to God, overcoming the fear that He might take possession of us. We need to live the joy of the gift that God gives to us. We do not do God a favor, it is God who gifts us with his presence.
- We are committed to carrying in our heart what we experience and do each day. We need to offer to God our entire life.
- We are committed to prayer which is centered more on the Word of God and which includes significant moments of silence and interiorization.
- We are committed to being prayer witnesses and to teach/accompany students in praying.
- We are committed to actively participating in prayer in both good times and bad, in our communities, Districts, Regions or in the local Church.
- We are committed to sharing prayer, the experience of God and the Word of life.
- We are committed to reviewing our attitudes towards prayer, whether personal, community or collegial.
- We are committed to taking on the movement of spiritual and the life of prayer renewal that is currently happening in the Institute and in the Church.
- We are committed to making the Brothers and communities open their prayer encounters to the educational community and to participate in Church encounters.

## **WE SUGGEST**

- We suggest that the Prayer Week continue to be organised in successive years since we value this type of meeting in a very positive way.