

# Prayers: 2007-2008 Chaplain's Corner

**OCTOBER 2007**



Dear Father, Grant us the grace of wonder. Let us be amazed by the beauty of your hand as you begin to change the seasons. Let each day surprise us with the marvels of your creations. Remind us to be humble in the presence of your spirit, to take nothing for granted, to receive everything with gratitude and above all to extend the hand of friendship to all we meet. We ask that you hold our men and women who serve to protect our nation in your grace and return them safely to their families. These things we pray in your blessed name. Amen.

***Conney Bell, Chaplain, Department of South Carolina***

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Dear Lord, We thank you for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. We pray that you will lead and guide us as we work for you. Lead and guide our newly elected officers as we begin a new year in the American Legion Auxiliary around the world. May you bless our Military men and women wherever they may be giving so much of themselves to protect us from harms way. Bless our veterans and our organization as we strive to serve them. Teach us to have love and compassion for one another and be a blessing as we go through life. It is not about me, Lord, it is about you. Bless our great country and help us to always remember that we are "One Nation under God." We give you all the honor, glory and praise in your holy name. Amen.

***Jan Bruce, Chaplain, Department of Tennessee***

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Father in Heaven, Please watch over your children who are engaged in combat to protect this country and the lives of their loved ones and countrymen. Shield them with your grace and your glory to protect them from harms way. May we, as Americans, have the faith to trust in your divine plan and have hope that our loved ones return to us soon. I love America; I love the freedom that has been provided to me by our men and women. When our soldiers feel weak and alone give them sense of your presence and your Love. We ask for the rich blessings for our military and our country. Please Lord bless the unity of America. Amen.

***Linda Schwartz, Chaplain, Department of Utah***

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Oh Heavenly Father, We thank you for your devotion to mankind and for the spiritual leaders you have provided throughout the world to serve you. Guide and protect our courageous service men and women, pray for their families, the sick, the homeless and the jobless. Fill those who have a feeling of emptiness with your love and admiration. Comfort those who have lost loved ones. Lead us with your love, faith and amazing grace. Help us face our challenges, so that we can accomplish the worthwhile goals you have set before us. We ask this in your name. Amen.

***Nancy True, Chaplain, Department of Maine***

## NOVEMBER 2007



Father, We have been chosen to serve as Chaplains. We know not what makes us worthy to assume this mantle of responsibility. You, and you alone, know the reason we are here. Therefore, Father, we put ourselves into your hands. Help us, Father, to become the Chaplain you want us to be that our words and deeds will bring glory to you. Thank you Father for allowing us to experience this awesome opportunity. Amen.

***Sharon L. Doran, Chaplain, Department of Arizona***

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Father, I ask you to bless my friends, relatives and all of my American Legion Family. Show them a new revelation of Your love and power. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through your grace. May all the new officers and chairmen have a wonderful and fulfilling year. Help us to preserve the Freedom that has been given us, by those who have, and who are sacrificing so much. For this we ask in your name. Amen.

***Carolyn Cunningham, Chaplain, Department of Illinois***

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Dear Lord, We ask thy blessing upon us. May we be blessed by your guidance now and in the days to come. Help us rededicate ourselves and our organization ever remembering the American Legion Auxiliary's principal service is for God and Country. Please bless each Department Chaplain in her spiritual leadership. Keep us safe in our travels and help us perform our duties faithfully and efficiently. Let peace and goodwill spread the spirit of love for our country and for those that have served and are now serving. All this we ask in thy name. Amen.

***Claudia Goodin, Chaplain, Department of Missouri***

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"This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Dear Lord: Help me to deny myself, and be crucified to the world, that I may follow the Lamb wherever he goes, lifting up my head with Holy joy, because the day of my redemption draws near. Amen.

***Gloria Bennett, Chaplain, Department of Virginia***

## DECEMBER 2007



All my life, Christmas has been a joyous time. Except for one year, thirty-five years ago. December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1972, a blue car drove into my driveway. I was told by the men in that car that my husband of six years was shot down over Vietnam. From that night on until sixteen years and one day later Don was listed as Missing-in-Action. For every year he was MIA, the two children and I celebrated Christmas and the hope that their father would be returned. He was returned, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1988. Don doesn't sit with us by the tree but he does live in our hearts and memories.

Lord, We trust you with our lives. When good things happen, we rejoice. When we don't understand why things are the way they are, we still trust in you because we know you have a plan for our lives. When things happen in a way that destroys us, we cry then we feel your redeeming touch.

Lord, Thank you for my life. I ask that you bless those families who still wait for an answer. This, I ask in your holy name. Amen.

***Charleen Walters, Chaplain, Department of Nebraska***

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Dear Lord, We pray as we come together for this meeting that we will have your blessing and that we will do all in our power to do all we can do for our children and community. We pray that you keep our service personnel safe and that they all return home soon. Let us not forget our POWs and MIAs. May they never be far from our thoughts. This we ask in your precious name. Amen.

***Irene A. Lewis, Chaplain, Department of New Hampshire***

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Lord, Help me not only to dwell on that which is good, but also to do that which is good. Show me the countless opportunities that come my way each day to share your goodness and loving kindness. May I never grow weary of doing good and may I always give you the glory. Amen.

***Monique Batiste, Chaplain, Department of Louisiana***

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Our most gracious heavenly Father we call upon you so many times, day and night. You are always there for us no matter how many times we call. Will we be ready to answer your call? When that time comes we should always be aware that the gifts of loving you, honoring you and giving you thanks every day of our lives will surely prepare us for your call. Amen.

***Hilde Martin, Chaplain, Department of Georgia***

## JANUARY 2008



### Saint Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

***Kris Nelson, Chaplain, Department of Minnesota***

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The purpose for which our American Legion Family was organized is stated in the opening lines of the Preambles to our Constitutions; "For God and Country."

The American Legion's motto is "Still Serving America" and the motto of the American Legion Auxiliary is "Service Not Self."

My fellow volunteers, I remind you that in giving to others we are giving to the Lord.

Please consider saying the following prayer as you celebrate your birthday, the anniversary of your joining our big American Legion Family, or just when you wake up in the morning.

### A VOLUNTEER'S PRAYER

I thank thee, Lord, as a volunteer – for the chance to serve another year. And to give of myself in some small way, to those not blessed as I each day.

My thanks for health and mind and soul -- to aid me ever toward my goal.

For eyes to see the good in all -- a hand to extend before a fall.

For legs to go where the need is great, learning to love -- forgetting to hate.

For ears to hear and heart to care, when someone's cross is hard to bear.

A smile to show my affection true, with energy aplenty -- the task to do.

And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may -- is to serve you better day by day.

--Anonymous

***Jane Montaney, Chaplain, Department of Washington***

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### PRAYER TO HELP A FRIEND

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

***Patricia A. Rice, Chaplain, Department of Maryland***



It takes strength to be firm.  
It takes courage to be gentle.  
It takes strength to fit in.  
It takes courage to stand out.  
It takes strength to feel a friend's pain.  
It takes courage to feel your own pain.  
It takes strength to endure abuse.

It takes courage to stop it.  
It takes strength to love.  
It takes courage to be loved.  
It takes strength to survive.  
It takes courage to live.  
Author unknown

Dear Lord, thank you for being a caring God and for the promise that you will never leave nor forsake us. Be with our country's leaders and guide them in their decisions. Protect the brave men and women in our armed forces as they serve at home and overseas. Guide our hearts and minds as we work together as an American Legion family for God and Country. Amen.

***Martha Whitaker, Chaplain, Department of North Carolina***

## FEBRUARY 2008



“BE NOT AFRAID” (Barney E. Warren, 1911)

*Verse 4:*

Be not afraid, O helpless one,  
Trust in his boundless grace;  
Say from the heart, “Thy will be done,  
Finish the work Thou hast begun,  
Bring me to see Thy face.”

*Refrain:*

Be not afraid, ‘tis I,  
Be not afraid, ‘tis I”;  
Though wild winds blowing,  
My bark o’erflowing,  
God rules in earth and sky:  
“Be not afraid, ‘tis I,  
“Be not afraid, ‘tis I”;  
The storm can’t harm my trusting soul,  
For Jesus walks the waves that roll;  
His voice I hear, which calms my fear,  
“‘Tis I, be not afraid.”

“BE NOT AFRAID” Requiem (Clay Harrison)

The mem’ries always linger  
In the shadows of the mind,  
The pain is always present  
As life and death unwind.  
The past is not forgotten  
When it’s a part of you  
And a torch burns for others  
Whose dreams did not come true.  
It hurts to lose a loved one  
Whose flower never bloomed,  
But dreams can be reborn  
If by you they are assumed.  
The flame of life may flicker  
Or become mere residue,  
But it cannot be extinguished  
If it brightly burns in you.

WORDS TO LIVE BY (Jo Petty)

Let us love in deed and in truth rather than in word and tongue.  
Faults are thick when love is thin.  
Love praises others.  
Teach me, Father, when I pray,  
Not to ask for more,  
But rather let me give thanks  
For what is at my door.  
For food and drink, for gentle rain,  
For sunny skies above,  
For home and friends, for peace and joy,  
But most of all for LOVE

Lord, open our eyes

that we may see you in our brothers and sisters,  
Lord, open our ears  
that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.  
Lord, open our hearts  
that we may love each other as you love us.  
Renew in us your spirit  
Lord, free us and make us one.  
-Mother Teresa-

**Carol F. Kelly, Chaplain, Department of Ohio**

**FEBRUARY 2008 continued**



GOD'S HALL OF FAME (Walt Huntley)  
Your name may not appear down here  
In this world's Hall of Fame;  
In fact, you may be so unknown  
That no one knows your name.  
The Oscars here may pass you by,  
And neon lights of blue;  
But if you love and serve the Lord,  
Then I have news for you!

This Hall of Fame is only good  
As long as time shall be;  
But in mind, God's Hall of Fame  
Is for Eternity!  
To have your name inscribed up there  
Is greater, yes, by far,  
Than all the Halls of Fame down here,  
And every man-made star.  
This crowd on earth, they soon forget  
The heroes of the past,  
They cheer like mad until you fall,  
And that how long you last!  
But God, He never does forget,  
And in His Hall of Fame,  
By just believing in His Son,  
Inscribed you'll find your name.  
I tell you, friend, I wouldn't trade  
My name, however small,  
There's written there beyond the stars  
In that celestial Hall  
For every famous name on earth  
Or glory that we share:  
I'd rather be an unknown here,  
And have my name up there!

"Every task, however simple, sets the soul that does it free; every deed of love and mercy, done to man, is done to Me." –Van Dyke

Lord and Creator of all, help us to embody the spirit of the Four Chaplains of the Dorchester who, having learned to live and serve together, in death were not divided. Help us to realize that that although we may walk our own path of faith, that we are not alone, for we walk at the same time, toward the same end/beginning. Be we Pagan, Christian, Muslim, Jew, Buddhist, Taoist, Hindu, or of other religious choice, we pray that each will feel the love of their Creator(s) and by example learn to see each other as brothers and sisters, allowing the

boundary lines of religion to diminish. We thank you, Lord, for your unfailing and unconditional love. We remember those who have stood—and who continue to stand—in the line of fire to defend our freedom around the globe. We ask that you continue to keep them in your constant care and protection. Amen.

***Jeri Brooks Greenwell, National Chaplain (Maine)***



God, as we celebrate this Easter season in the Jewish and Christian communities, we thank you for your love and your many blessings, especially the gift of each other. Help us to be understanding and patient with one another, quick to admit our failings and generous in sharing the joy and strength we can give each other. Deter us from coldness, indifference and insensitivity. Allow us to live a life that is reflective of your image.

God, we also ask that you continue to protect, strengthen and encourage our troops around the world. Grant unto them a sense of your presence wherever they may be. Amen.

***Jeri Brooks Greenwell, National Chaplain (Maine)***

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When your heart is sad and lonely,  
and your friends seem far away,  
Turn to Him who is all holy,  
and He'll drive your cares away.  
When a dear one seems to fail you,  
when for friendship true you long,  
Confide in Him who is all true,  
and He'll right your every wrong.

His heart is your true refuge,  
to Him you can always flee,  
Even when your hopes are sinking,  
He will then a true friend be.  
He will soothe your lonely spirit,  
He will love and bless and say,  
"Come to me and I will comfort,  
you, today and every day."  
Amen.

--Unknown

***Judith Ramirez, Chaplain, Department of Puerto Rico***

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WITH YOU (Dona M. Maroney)  
The road looks long and dreary  
The mountain way too high  
I just can't seem to go on  
No matter how hard I try.  
But you dear Lord are with me  
Every day of the year  
Filling me we your endless love

And I have nothing more to fear.  
Thank You my Dear Father  
For the strength and love you bring.  
I know with You at my side  
I can face most anything.

***Pat Rice, Chaplain, Department of Maryland***

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“May we ring the bells for peace in the higher regions; may there be peace in the firmament; may there be peace on earth. May the waters flow peacefully; may the herbs and plants grow peacefully; may all the divine powers bring unto us peace. The supreme Lord is peace and we ring the bells to honor Him. May we all be in peace, peace, and only peace; and may that peace come unto each of us.”

--Little Book of Prayers - Shanti-Shanti-Shanti from The Vedas

***Mary Kelly-Perkins, Chaplain, Department of Florida***

**APRIL 2008**



Nine ways to plant a good crop:

1. Plant seeds of Love.
2. Plant seeds of Joy.
3. Plant seeds of Peace.
4. Plant seeds of Patience.
5. Plant seeds of Kindness.
6. Plant seeds of Gentleness.
7. Plant seeds of Faithfulness.
8. Plant seeds of Gentleness.
9. Plant seeds of Self-control.

Ask God to help you plant the good seed, feed the soil of your heart with food from God's word and ask the Holy Spirit to water it everyday. If you remain faithful to the true vine, you will produce a spiritual crop of fruit that will make the Heavenly Father proud.

Lord, plant us where we will flourish and bloom and fill us with Your love, so it will flow out of us into the lives of others. Bless our lives and those who need the food of Your Word. In His Name, Amen.

***Beverly Wolff, Chaplain, Department of North Dakota***

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Dear God, Give wisdom to those who govern and guide us. Give compassion to those who care for the sick and affirmed. Give strength to those who have many roles to fulfill. Help us to remember that more is accomplished when we work together with the understanding that we are individuals who each have strengths and weaknesses in differing areas. Help us to be of assistance to each other through love and sisterhood so that we all see our roles in a positive light. Give us the voice to speak for those who have no one to speak for them. We pray that for those who hold offices that they may use if for the good of all and not for self-satisfaction. Protect us and guide us. For Your names sake, Amen.

***Barbara Austin, Chaplain, Department of Kentucky***

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**DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER (Author Unknown)**

I've never made a fortune  
And it's probably too late now,  
But I don't worry about that much  
I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way  
I'm reaping better than I sow.

I'm drinking from my saucer  
'Cause my cup has overflowed!

Haven't got a lot of riches  
And sometimes the going's tough,  
But I've got loving ones around me  
And that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for His blessings  
And the mercies He's bestowed.

I'm drinking from my saucer  
'Cause my cup has overflowed!

Oh, I remember times when things went wrong  
And my faith wore somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke  
And sun peeped through again.

So Lord, help me not to gripe  
About the tough rows that I've hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer  
"Cause my cup has overflowed!

If God gives me strength and courage  
When the way grows steep and rough,  
I'll not ask for other blessings  
I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy  
To help others bear their loads,  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer  
'Cause my cup has overflowed!

***Barbara Clifford, Chaplain, Department of Connecticut***

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Thank you, Dear Lord, for this nation and for the freedoms we enjoy here. Give us the courage to preserve our precious liberties and the strength to share them with oppressed people around the world. May we speak out against injustice and oppression of any kind...anywhere, and may the flames of freedom that burns brightly here in America be a beacon for the entire world to see. Amen.

***Barb Vetter, Chaplain, Department of South Dakota***

**MAY 2008**



Let us pray, Heavenly Father, you seek abundance and joy for us and for all your children. One way that we can share your joy is through the gift of friendship. Help us to be loyal friends, Lord. Let us be ready to listen, ready to encourage, and ready to offer a helping hand. Keep us mindful that we are your faithful servants. Let us be a worthy servant Lord and a worthy friend. And, may the love of our Lord shine through us today and forever. Amen.

***Laurey Oxley, Chaplain, Department of Texas***



### DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When cares are pressing you down a bit,  
Rest if you must, but don't quit!  
Life is strange with its twists and turns,  
As everyone of us sometimes learns,

And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won if he stick it out.  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,  
You may succeed with another blow.  
Success is failure turned inside out,  
The silver tint of the cloud of doubt.  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far.  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,  
It's when things get worse that you must not quit!

Lord your word has such healing power. Thank you for the promise that no matter how dark our days can be, you will never let us be lost or separated from your love and care. You will never allow us to suffer more than we can bear! Even more, you comfort us through your Holy Spirit and save us from having despairing hearts. Amen.

***Doris Garland, Chaplain, Department of Pennsylvania***

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Sing a song for our unsung heroes. Say a prayer for their families.  
And praise their uncommon valor. Which is keeping our nation free.  
And we pray that our nation's leaders hear the "Voice of the People" say: "Bring us Peace!"  
Find an end to conflict. Let democracy pave the way.  
Please sing a song for our unsung heroes. Say a prayer for their families.  
Hold them, God, in Your gentle hands from now through eternity.  
Written by Kathy Eckman Wamic, Oregon Unit 135

***Genevieve Horne, Chaplain, Department of Oregon***