



ASSOCIATE RE-COMMITMENT SERVICE

PRE – GATHERING: Completed Mutual Agreement form

Bring candle to commitment ceremony

SETTING: A primary candle to be lit at the beginning of the ceremony and a bible to be used for readings. Have a basket or plate/tray to receive Commitment Documents.

LEADER

As Franciscan men and women we embrace the spirit and charism of Saint Francis. We are grateful for the history of the Congregation and the Sisters who went before us and those who are present with us. We draw strength and inspiration from the other Associates as we journey together. We embrace the blessings that have been ours since we responded to be in an Associate Relationship with the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate and to follow the Gospel way of life. We continue our faith journey with a renewed sense of commitment.

LIGHT PRIMARY CANDLE

ALL: Read of the symbolism of a candle

A candle is a small thing.....

Yet it has the power to dispel darkness,

Take away our fear and lead us to light.

A candle is a simple thing.....
But its warmth can kindle weary hearts
And numbed spirits to new resolve.

A candle is our symbol today.....
To bring renewed life and hope,
Strengthening our faith and commitment to Gospel values.

READER 1 - CONGREGATION MISSION STATEMENT

Led by the Spirit, we, the Joliet Franciscans, embrace the Gospel life by commitment to Franciscan values and respond to the needs of our time through prayer, community and ministry.

READER 2 - ASSOCIATE VISION STATEMENT

As Associates of the Sisters of Saint Francis, we yield to the Spirit who forms us in the Gospel values of prayer, simplicity, poverty, charity and justice, as modeled in times past by Francis and Clare, and as lived in modern times by Mother Alfred Moes and the women who follow her today.

We believe we are part of a new creation of Associates and vowed members which is coming to birth in the church, in the world, and in this particular Congregation.

SONG – Sing A New Song (Dan Schutte – YouTube)

REFRAIN:

Sing a new song unto the Lord;
Let your song be sung from mountains high,
Sing a new song unto the Lord,

Sing alleluia.

Yahweh's people dance for joy,

O come before the Lord.

And play for him on glad tambourines,

And let your trumpet sound. (Refrain)

Rise, O children, from your sleep;

Your savior now has come.

He has turned your sorrow to joy,

And filled your soul with song. (Refrain)

Glad my soul I have seen

The glory of the Lord.

The trumpets sounds; the dead shall be raised,

I know my Savior lives. (Refrain)

READER 3 – Col. 3:12-17 (Read from bible provided)

Pause for personal reflection

READER 4 - PSALM 145:1-12

LEADER:

It is with prayerful hearts and joyful hearts, in a spirit of commitment to Gospel values, that we come together today to individually commitment our self to our Associate Relationship in solidarity with the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate.

RENEW INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS one by one. Place commitment paper in area provided. When finished light your own personal candle.

SONG – Joyful, Joyful (Amy Grant –YouTube)

Joyful, joyful we adore thee
God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee
Opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around thee
Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain
Flowery meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song.
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

CLOSING PRAYER – Read Together (by: Ted Loder – Guerrillas of Grace)

In this moment
draw me to yourself, Lord,

and make me aware
not so much of what I've given
as of all I have received
and so have yet to share.

Send me forth
in power and gladness
and with great courage
to live out in the world
what I pray and commit,

that, in sharing
I may do justice,
make peace,
grow in love,
enjoy myself,
other people,
and your world now,
and forever.