

Prayer for ISMAPNG Chapter – Part One

During this month, we are invited to spend time praying for the guidance of the Spirit at the Institute Chapter which will be held in August. It is a special time in the life of the Sisters of Mercy, and we ask God's blessing and wisdom for all those participating.



*In [our chapters] we call one another
to conversion of mind and heart,
through a common hearing of the Word of God
and a common meeting with the Holy Spirit.
Together, we scrutinize our following of Jesus,
our fidelity to our charism,
our response to the world and the Church,
in light of the Gospel.
(Constitutions 6.07)*

We are reminded of the deepest reason for our life as Sisters of Mercy:

*“We want to follow Jesus Christ,
to take part in his mission of mercy.
To do this, we must first allow ourselves
to be loved by God who is mercy. [DM2]
To follow Christ
is to let ourselves be led
into the mystery of God's steadfast, merciful love. [Ps 86]
We come
because we have heard God speak to our hearts.
We have declared our intent to follow Jesus [Lk 5:11]
and to live through love in God's presence. [Eph 1:4]*

*Our name reminds us
that God can be mercy for others through us
only when we open ourselves
to receive God's mercy."*

These words from the first chapter of the Constitutions of ISMAPNG are a clarion call to us, to take time in prayer to be "let ourselves be loved by God" so that we can share that love with all we meet and to be the prophetic women we are called to be, no matter where we are.

Prayer for ISMAPNG Chapter – Part Two

In this time of preparation for the ISMAPNG Chapter, let us take heart from God's words to us through the prophet Jeremiah:

“For I know the plans I have for you,
plans for your welfare and not for evil,
to give you a future full of hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Let us pray this blessing for all those involved in the ISMAPNG chapter:

*“May God bless you and protect you.
May God smile on you and be gracious to you.
May you be shown God's favour and be given God's peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)*

Together with Sisters of Mercy throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea, let us take time to pray the special prayer for the ISMAPNG chapter.

PRAYER FOR CHAPTER

God of All Life and Goodness

Through your tender mercy
may our preparation for the chapter,
and the chapter itself,
be experiences of grace
for all in our Institute.

Today, and over days to come,
keep us so attentive to the cry of the
earth and the cry of the poor
that our responses to them
will beat with your own merciful heart.

Strengthen us with gifts of your Spirit:
faith and freedom,

to imagine new possibilities for our
Institute as an agent of your mercy;
respect and mutuality,

to mature our communion of life;
humility,

to own the truth of our dependence on
your mercy and
the integrity of each other;

wisdom,
to hear your soft-spoken word;
insight,

to see through obscurity;
trust,

to accept that your ways
are not always ours;
confidence,

to speak carefully and with conviction;
gratitude,

to remember and to celebrate
the bounty of your loving kindness.

*In companionship with Venerable Catherine
McAuley, we make this prayer through
Jesus who constantly reveals
your mercy to us. Amen*