

## **Spirit of Faith**

**Call to Worship:** Let us remember that we are in God's presence.

Since earliest times, people have been fascinated by fire. Because of its power and mystery, we have responded to fire with a sense of fear and awe. Fire has drawn groups of people around it for centuries, its warmth and light creating a sense of closeness and its leaping flames taking each one off into deep and distant thoughts. Fire is also one of the most common images of God's presence and activity among His creations. As we begin, reflect on what it is like to live in darkness, away from God's love and warmth. Reflect on how we as a community can lift this darkness to reveal the spirit of faith burning in each of us.

( Pause )

### **First Reading: Adapted from *The Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools***

The spirit of our Institute is a spirit of faith that leads its members to look upon everything with the eyes of faith, to do everything in view of God, and to attribute all to God.

It is by faith that we judge all things that happen on earth in the light of the Gospel. It is because of our faith that we work to build the kingdom of God through service.

It is by faith that we are aware of God's presence in all that we do, care about, and celebrate.

It is by faith that we learn to recognize in every happening and in every person, especially the poor, a sign of the spirit of God calling us.

### **Antiphon: "Refiners Fire"**

Refiners fire, my heart's one desire is to be holy.

Set apart for You, Lord.

I choose to be holy, set apart for You my master, ready to do Your will.

### **Second Reading: Matthew 5:14-16**

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket; they set it on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

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### **Leader:**

Love is the fire that will illumine the world. It is the force of love which must be discovered and directed and unleashed in this world if the world is ever to be transformed into Christ. At this time let us present our petitions to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, you are our light and salvation.

### **Closing Prayer**

God of power and light, loosen my tongue to sing Your praise, in words beyond the power of speech; cast the fire of Your Spirit into my heart, that it may burn with the warmth of Your embrace; open the horizons of my mind, that I may see without seeing You! Eternal Fire, cleanse me from all darkness, that I may come to You and be with You. Amen.

(Arranged by Brother Louis Welker)