

# Prayers at the Columbaria

*May the collection of prayers below assist you whenever you mourn, wherever you are in your unique journey of grief and gratitude, and during visits to your Deceased loved one at the Ignatius House Columbaria. All prayers are courtesy of JesuitResource.org, a service of Xavier University's Center for Mission and Identity.*

## **Prayers of Our Heart**

Bless those who mourn, eternal God,  
with the comfort of your love  
that they may face each new day with hope  
and the certainty that nothing can destroy  
the good that has been given.  
May their memories become joyful,  
their days enriched with friendship,  
and their lives encircled by your love.

*- Vienna Cobb Anderson*

## **Overcoming Life's Hardships**

O Lord, we call upon You in our time of sorrow, that You give us the strength and will to bear our heavy burdens, until we can again feel the warmth and love of Your divine compassion.  
Be mindful of us and have mercy on us while we struggle to comprehend life's hardships. Keep us ever in Your watch, till we can walk again with light hearts and renewed spirits.

*- Author Unknown*

## **Sarum Primer Prayer**

God be in my head  
and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes  
and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth  
and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart  
and in my thinking;  
God be in my end  
and at my departing.

*- Author Unknown, c. 1514*

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## **Your Loving Support**

God, oh God, it is you I seek.  
And, with your constant loving support  
I will even try to seek you in lost causes,  
those dark and forgotten places that I can't imagine you present.  
And yet you are there.

Help me to be there too,  
seeking, finding, proclaiming your goodness  
even as the day darkens  
and my spirit draws back to my false safety of self.

Fill me with wonder of your goodness,  
replacing my self-doubt with confidence  
in you and your sure and steady help.

*- Author Unknown*

## **Leading in Our Lives**

God, we are your beloved.  
Even in our unfinished state,  
you take delight in what we are  
and what we will become.  
Help us to claim for our own your gentle leading in our lives,  
help us to know you are always hoping for more for us  
and from us.  
Give us the strength and peace of heart  
to be filled with your power.

*- Author Unknown*

## **Jewish Blessing of the Mourners**

Those who are worn out and crushed by this mourning, let your hearts consider this:  
this is the path that has existed from the time of creation and will exist forever.  
Many have drunk from it and many will yet drink.  
As was the first meal, so shall be the last.  
May the Master of Comfort comfort you.  
Blessed are those who comfort the mourners.

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## **Only for a Short While**

Oh, only for so short a while you  
have loaned us to each other,  
because we take form in your act of drawing us,  
and we take life in your painting us,  
and we breathe in your singing us.  
But only for so short a while  
have you loaned us to each other.  
Because even a drawing cut in obsidian fades,  
and the green feathers, the crown feathers,  
of the Quetzal bird lose their color,  
and even the sounds of the waterfall  
die out in the dry season.  
So, we too, because only for a short while  
have you loaned us to each other.

*- Aztec Indian Prayer*

## **A Blessing Prayer**

May the God of strength be with us,  
holding us in strong and loving hands,  
May we be the sacrament of God's strength  
to those whose hands we hold,  
May the blessing of strength be with us.

May the God of gentleness be with us,  
caressing us with sunlight and rain and wind.  
May God's tenderness shine through us  
to warm all who are hurt and lonely.  
May the blessing of gentles be with us.

May the God of wonder be with us,  
delighting us with sunrise and sunset, enchanting our  
senses, filling our hearts, giving us wide-open eyes  
that we may see the splendor in both the humble and majestic.  
May we open the eyes and hands and hearts of the blind and deaf and the insensitive.  
May the blessing of wonder be with us.

*(continued...)*

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May the God of compassion be with us,  
holding us close when we are weary and hurt and alone.  
And may we be the warm hands and eyes of compassion  
for our sisters and brothers when they reach out to us.  
May the blessing of compassion be on us.

May the God of simplicity be with us, opening us to a clear vision of what is real and true,  
Leading us deeply into the mystery of childhood.  
And may our dealings with others be marked by honesty, which is simplicity.  
May the blessing of simplicity be on us.

May the God of joy be with us, thrilling us with God's nearness,  
filling our hearts to fullness, and filling our throats with laughter and song.  
May our joy bring life and joy to others.  
May the blessing of joy be with us always.

May the God of love be with us.  
May our lives be continual, giving and receiving of love with our God,  
our friends, and with all whose lives we touch.  
May God's love in us light fires of faith and hope,  
and may the fire grow and burn deeply and enflame the earth.  
May the blessing of love and friendship be with us always.  
*- Author Unknown*