



Irish Spiritans



DES PLACES  
EDUCATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION

# Spiritans Leadership Prayers

Spiritans Leadership Conference - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2011

**Opening Song: How Great Thou Art**

**Opening Prayer**

**Peter:** Gracious God, thank you for the gift of this time together. Refresh us and invite us to discover Your presence in each other and in each experience we encounter.

In moments of challenge and decision, attune our hearts to the whisperings of your wisdom.

As we undertake ordinary and unnoticed tasks, gift us with simple joy.

When our day goes well, may we rejoice,  
When it grows difficult, surprise us with new possibilities.

May our work together reveal Your Spirit in us.





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**Peter:** As we begin, in expectation and in apprehension, we pray for your blessing O Lord, and for the enthusing power of your Spirit ...

Bless us O Lord, with hope.

Teach us to see the signs of hope in our midst and to approach our task in a spirit of hope and confidence.

**All :** Bless us O Lord, with hope.

**Peter:** Bless us, O Lord, with listening.  
Your Spirit works through each of us and speaks through each of us.  
Teach us to listen to one another with an open and generous disposition.





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**All:** Bless us, O Lord, with listening.

**Peter:** Bless us, O Lord, with appreciation.

As a group we are rich with a variety of gifts. Teach us to see what is positive in each other and to welcome and prize it as a gift from you.

**All:** Bless us, O Lord, with appreciation.

**Peter:** Bless us, O Lord, with perseverance.

The seeds we are sowing grow slowly; teach us to be patient and to trust.

**All:** Bless us, O Lord, with perseverance.





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**Peter:** Bless us, O Lord, with joy.  
Teach us to enjoy being together and  
working together.

**All:** Bless us, O Lord, with joy.





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## The Spirit of Leadership

**Reader 1:** A familiar sight in the French summer sun is the multicoloured peloton of the Tour de France. Hundreds of cyclists move as one. Like birds flying in formation each rider makes slight adjustments in response to the riders around him or her.



**Reader 2:** People who share a common direction and sense of community can achieve more and get where they are going quicker and easier because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

**Reader 1:** Whenever a team leader gets dropped by the peloton for example, due to a puncture or a technical problem, the domestiques will fall back to accompany that leader and pace him or her back up to the peloton.



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**Reader 2:** It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with cyclists, people are interdependent on each others' skills, capabilities and unique combination of gifts, talents and resources.



**Reader 1:** There is constant communication and trust between cyclists in the peloton within their own teams and even between teams, particularly when a breakaway group is being chased down and the peloton needs to catch them.

**Reader 2:** Where there is encouragement and trust, a lot more can be achieved, mountains can be scaled and rivers crossed. The power of communication and support is the essence of strong leadership and good teamwork.



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**Reader 1:** Arriving at the point where one can cycle within the peloton in the Tour de France takes years of practice, skill, dedication, courage and belief.



**Reader 2:** Not all leaders are born leaders. Many leaders have been loyal team players. They grew and developed into leaders within the cocoon of a strong and dynamic team environment where the values of loyalty, belief, commitment and courage were nurtured.



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## Primrose

Upon a bank I sat, a child made seer  
Of one small primrose flowering in my mind.  
Better than wealth it is, I said, to find  
One small page of Truth's manuscript made clear.  
I looked at Christ transfigured without fear--  
The light was very beautiful and kind,  
And where the Holy Ghost in flame had signed  
I read it through the lenses of a tear.  
And then my sight grew dim, I could not see  
The primrose that had lighted me to Heaven,  
And there was but the shadow of a tree  
Ghostly among the stars. The years that pass  
Like tired soldiers nevermore have given  
Moments to see wonders in the grass.

*Patrick Kavanagh*





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**Sung Reflection: Saviour**

**A Common Bond**

**All:** Gracious God, empower our common bond.

**Reader 3:** 'None of us is as wise as all of us are.'

During these days, we can try to let go of working independently. We wish to commit ourselves to building up a shared outlook. We wish to commit ourselves to the open listening and mutual appreciation that this demands.

**All:** Gracious God, empower our common bond.





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**Reader 4:** ‘Strength lies in togetherness’

During this time together,  
we can let go and not have to rely  
solely on our own strength.

We commit ourselves to moulding  
ourselves into a strong leadership  
team.



We commit ourselves to the learning  
that this requires, to trust, encourage  
and support each other.

**All:** Gracious God, empower our common bond.



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**Reader 5:** ‘The Spirit is given to each, for the common good of all’.

During our time together we can let go of feeling that everything depends on us.

While we put our hearts into everything, we pray that God’s Spirit, who speaks through all of us, will make us wise.



We pray that the Spirit, working in each one of us, will make us strong.

**All:** Gracious God, empower our common bond.



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**Peter: Blessing**

With respect and reverence that the unknown between us might flower into discovery and lead us beyond the familiar field blind with the weed of weariness and old walls of habit. May you allow the wild beauty of the invisible world to gather you, mind you and embrace you in belonging.

*John O' Donohue*

**Closing Song: Spirit Of the Living God**

