

TEACH ME TO LISTEN

Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest me, my family,
my friends, my co-workers.
Help me to be aware that no matter what words I hear, the message is,
"Accept the person I am. Listen to me."
Teach me to listen, my caring God, to those far from me –
the whisper of the hopeless,
the plea of the forgotten,
the cry of the anguished.
Teach me to listen, O God to myself.
Help me to be less afraid
to trust the voice inside – in the deepest part of me.
Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for your voice –
in busyness and in boredom,
in certainty and in doubt,
in noise and in silence.
Teach me, Lord, to listen.
Amen.

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY - 20th September 2020

PRAYER FOR COURAGE AND COMPASSION

Compassionate God,
Your unconditional love for all
inspires our hearts and empowers our actions
for those who are most vulnerable.
May we boldly and humbly serve one another
and be steadfast in our work for justice for all people.
Keep our hearts open to the joys and the hopes of our world,
and our ears ready to hear your call
to truth, justice and reconciliation.
Let us continue to draw inspiration and strength
from those, like St Mary MacKillop,
on whose shoulders we stand.
We gather in Jesus' name
to be nourished and to move forward together
in hope and joy.
Amen

This prayer was the 2020 National Catholic Social Services Conference prayer held in February 2020 in Melbourne. The Conference was convened by Catholic Social Services Victoria and Catholic Social Services Australia.