

# The Way of Life

“Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths; which was the good way? Take it and you will find rest for yourselves.” (Jeremiah 6:16)

## Suggestions for prayer:

1. **Create a sacred space**
2. **Prepare** white and coloured papers
3. **Meditate** on Holy Scriptures

Our life is a voyage. We are always “on the road.” Every time a new January arrives, we have the opportunity to stop, to see where we have been, to observe how long our road was, and to reflect on the travel we had so far, (as persons, as a community, as organisations of our mission).

Some parts of Scriptures are symbolic and they talk about the voyage of our life. The road as a spiritual image is very present in Scripture as in Christian life:

- **The way of faith**, the way followed by Sarah and Abraham in faith. Even in their old age, God had marvelous surprises for them (*Gen. 12:1-9*);
- **The way of pardon and reconciliation**, that reunited the children of Jacob to their brother Joseph (*Gen. 45*);
- **The way of liberation**, followed by the people in *Exodus* through the desert in a pilgrimage towards the promised land, constantly accompanied by the presence of God (*Ex. 13. 17-22*);
- **The way towards Bethlehem**, during which the vibrant life was ready to be born to a young woman (*Lk. 2: 1-12*);
- **The way of the desert**, where Jesus was confronted with struggles and came out with the power of the Spirit (*Lk. 4: 1-15*);
- **The way of Galilee**, which Jesus walked doing good (*Lk. 4: 16-21*);
- **The way to Bethany**, where there was comfort in friendship during the mission of Jesus (*Lk. 10: 38-42*);
- **The way to Jerusalem**, painful, anguished with lots of moments in solitude (*Lk. 9: 51-62*);
- **The way to Gethsemane**, with torment and agony, where the desire to turn back pained to his heart (*Lk. 22: 39-46*);
- **The way to the empty tomb**, where the surprise of God filled the morning with light (*Lk. 24: 1-12*);
- **The way to Emmaus**, of two sad and discouraged disciples, that were transformed in a flame of love, and then returned the same way in hurry, impatient to announce the good news (*Lk. 24: 13-35*)

### Suggestions for prayer:

1. With your papers, design a road (a way) and write the year just finished. Write down the key events and experiences done during this walk, and give a name to this road.
2. Design another road and put the year just began. Write what you feel as the month of January begins, and give a name to this new road **to favour justice, peace and solidarity in yourself, among people and on earth.**
3. **Share freely.**

### PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR: *God, walk with us*

While we do our best to live our life better, *God, walk with us*

While we are happy with the treasures we have on the way of faith, *God, walk with us*

While we continue to trust you, *God, walk with us*

While we walk the unknown way of the new year, *God, walk with us*

While we do our best to love our enemies, *God, walk with us*

While we learn to accept our weaknesses and our strengths, *God, walk with us*

While we open our hearts to the messengers you send, *God, walk with us*

While we remain faithful to our relationship with you, *God walk with us*

While we dedicate ourselves to those without power, *God, walk with us*

While we are in search of truth, *God, walk with us*

While we try to live in the heart of Scripture, *God, walk with us*

While we accept your faithful love for us, *God, walk with us*

### We pray:

God of the new year, we are entering in the mystery. We are facing the future, without knowing what the months and years will bring, or what our answers will be. In this our journey inspire us love. **Make us capable to accept all those we meet along the way.**