Charity - Prayers and Affirmations

Prayer Options

1. Scripture Reading—Mother Teresa often quoted the bible when speaking to others. Here is one of her favourite passages from Matthew 25: 34-40

   “On the last day, Jesus will say to those at his right hand, “Come, enter the Kingdom. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was sick and you visited me." Then Jesus will turn to those on his left hand and say, "Depart from me because I was hungry and you did not feed me, I was thirsty and you did not give me drink, I was sick and you did not visit me." These will ask him, “When did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or sick, and did not come to your help?” And Jesus will answer them, “Whatever you neglected to do unto one of the least of these, you neglected to do unto me!”

2. Spread love everywhere you go;
   First of all in your own house.
   Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor...
   Let no one ever come to you
   Without leaving better and happier.
   Be the living expression of God’s kindness;
   Kindness in your face,
   Kindness in your eyes,
   Kindness in your smile,
   Kindness in your warm greeting.

3. People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered:
   All: Forgive them anyway.
   If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives:
   All: Be kind anyway.
   If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies:
   All: Succeed anyway.
   If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you:
   All: Be frank and honest anyway.
   What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight:
   All: Build anyway.
   The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow:
   All: Do good anyway.
   Give the world the best you have and it my never be enough:
   All: Give the world the best you’ve got anyway.
   You see, in the final analysis, it’s between you and God: It was never between you and them anyway.

-Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo York Catholic District School Board
4. **To Our Lady of Guadalupe** (Feast Day December 12th)

   O Mother of the Americas,
   You came on a dark hill in a dark time
   To one who had no documentation.
   To the challenge of the authorities,
   You offered roses and grace.
   You wanted a space,
   Simple and extraordinary,
   A space where all could worship
   Together, equally your children.
   You call us again in this dark time
   To create a space
   Where all your children
   Are welcomed, cherished,
   Offered bread, roses,
   and what grace we can gather.
   O Lady, still shining,
   Madre, Mother,
   You wait on the hillside,
   Until we believe,
   Until we can welcome
   The ones whom you send.

5. **Christmas Season Prayer**

   May the love that breathes life into all of humanity
   Be born in us this Christmas season.
   May the love that brings forth all of creation,
   Be born in us this Christmas season.
   May the love that overcomes hatred and brings healing,
   Be born in us this Christmas season.
   May the love that forgives and renews,
   Be born in us this Christmas season.
   May the love that brings the fruits of justice,
   Be born in us this Christmas season.
   May the love that brings the blessing of peace,
   Be born in us this Christmas season.
   May that Peace now be the gift we with share with all our brothers and sisters.

   *From "A Gift of Peace," by Richard Becher, in *Shine On, Star of Bethlehem*, CAFOD, 2004*
Affirmations:

- I co-operate with others in all that I do
- I value everyone's work
- I respect and listen to others
- I think of others before myself
- I follow rules of fair play
- I work hard in school so that I can build my community and make it a better place

Concluding Prayer

Hail Mary (or your choice)