



The Shield
October 2018 edition
Praying for the Canadian Military Community



Join us throughout the month of October as we pray
for the following individuals and issues.

Canada

At one time our national anthem professed a greater acceptance and reliance on God. As we began to believe ourselves self-reliant, we started to move away from God and all that made us good. We are still a Nation that can worship our God and we must pray that this continues.

Consider using these 1906 lyrics as your prayer for our country:

*O Canada! Our fathers' land of old
Thy brow is crown'd with leaves of red and gold.
Beneath the shade of the Holy Cross
Thy children own their birth
No stains thy glorious annals gloss
Since valour shield thy hearth.
Almighty God! On thee we call defend our rights, forfend this nation's thrall."*

Leaders

Leaders inspire and encourage others to go down a path they often are reluctant to pursue. All disciples of Christ, including those reading this Shield, are leaders. Their objective is to introduce others to Jesus. Disciples must draw close to Jesus, know His desires and then share that Good News with those who do not know Him. Leadership becomes complicated and ineffective when we try to impose our agenda on the mission and that is why as disciples we must constantly seek God. Talk with God about being His leader and listen for His guidance.

Consider praying like Jesus' prayer found in John 17: *"Father, you gave disciples to your Son to serve you and as they continue to seek Him and obey His words, they need you. Remind them, all comes from you and that their strength comes from being in a relationship with you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave Jesus so that they may be one as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one" Amen."*

Operations

Our military is willing to serve anywhere, not because they are commanded but because they choose to do so. Jesus spoke of the great love expressed through sacrifice that one can have for another. He was referring to His upcoming sacrifice but also wanted us to think about the type of relationship that He expects of His Church where it expresses unselfish, sacrificial love for one another. Many of our military men and women are sacrificing for great reasons. Would it not be greater for them if they go armed with God's love and fight for a greater purpose than earthly kingdoms but for the protection of God's kingdom on earth. Pray, they serve with honour, but also pray they see there is something greater to serve.

Will you visit DND's operations website and each week adopt an operation to pray for.

Operations: <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations/current-list.page>

Consider praying (same as last month's suggestion): *“Father, we bring our military before you and pray that they find a way to depend on you to sustain them during difficult and often dangerous situations. We pray for those who know you and ask you use them to provide comfort to their peers. We pray for their spiritual and emotional resiliency so that regardless of what they face, they are effective in their military roles and responsibility. Amen”*

Chaplains:

One of the responsibilities listed in a Canadian Forces Chaplains job description states, “to advise the Commanding Officer regarding religious accommodations issues, ethical dilemmas, as well as spiritual and morale issues of the unit”. This can be an incredible burden if a chaplain feels they are alone. Our role is to talk with God about these men and women and listen for ways we can help, pray and support them.

Consider praying this version of the Serenity Prayer: *“God grant our chaplains the serenity to accept the things they cannot change; courage to change the things they can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as they would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if they surrender to His Will. We pray that they may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.”*

Military families

God created humanity to live in a harmonious relationship and modelled this behaviour in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bond. Unfortunately, we are not always good at showing love for those we said we'd love forever. Stressful situations often exasperated by military life can damage the family unity. Our desire is that our military families come to know the peace Jesus offers so that when they are faced with life's challenges and difficulties, they can recognize the true enemy is not each other, but the evil one who wants nothing better to destroy relationships. We can pray they find Jesus and build a relationship with Him which leads to a stronger family.

Consider praying: *“Lord Jesus, be with our military families. Open their eyes to you and place a desire in them to know you. Grant them your peace and harmony to end any conflict and division. Bless them with compassion to better understand each other, and the wisdom to assist each other. Help them trust you so they can learn to live with trust and patience for each other. Amen.”*

The MCF

We are on God's mission to bring His good news to our military community. All military followers of Jesus are invited to take the Good News into the world but first, we all must ensure we understand what the mission is. Our website offers insight as to ways we believe we can serve our military, but everyone must ensure they are aligned with God's will for them. Speak to Him and listen and He will use you for His glory.

Consider praying: *“Father, help us to know that we are on Your path for our lives. When we want to claim our achievements as our own, and our talents as abilities as something we've fostered and accomplished ourselves, remind us to hit our knees and raise our hands to You - Creator of all. Help us be patient as you talk with us so that your will becomes ours. AMEN”.*

