

The Rivendell Community Companions' Rule - Prolog Litany

In grateful response to the overwhelming love of God, we desire to give ourselves wholly, unreservedly, and continually to the One who gives himself to us. We seek to be conformed to God's will, to share in Christ's cross and resurrection, and to cooperate faithfully with the gifts of grace. Helpless as we are in ourselves, we pray and trust that God who has given us these desires will also bring them to fruition. By God's own invitation, we set our hearts and wills on God, joyfully declaring that nothing else and nothing less will content us. And trusting that nothing else will content God either, we cast ourselves into God's arms.

Leader: O Holy Spirit, who gave us these desires.

Response: Enable us to be transformed by your life-giving power.

We intend full and unqualified consent to God's invitations, in general and in particular. Our longing is that our whole lives may pronounce a "yes" to God's purposes for us and the world. Our intention is to enfold our response to the commandments to love God with our whole heart and mind and soul and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, by adopting these means and goals in common.

Leader: O God, who calls us to respond.

Response: Enable us to say "yes" and act in accordance with your will.

This common Rule is intended to deepen community, provide a container for common life, and assist in mutual accountability. We understand it as a framework for freedom, the freedom to become increasingly who God calls us to be. Though we recognize that we will constantly fall short of these intentions, we commit ourselves to persevere in hope, trust, and dependence on God's grace.

Leader: Spirit of God, who knows all our shortcomings. We need you to move among us, for we sometimes forget that we are yours.

Response: Forgive us and sustain us with your grace as we discern who you are calling us to be

We intend to celebrate the Eucharist continually in our lives as well as in the liturgy, to offer ourselves in all that we do or suffer to God, with the intention that our offering be taken, consecrated and united to Christ's sacrifice, broken and given. As members of a royal priesthood, we will also present to God the joys and sorrows of the world. Our intention is to give thanks to God in all things.

Leader: O God, who came to dwell among us and showed us how to offer all: taken, blessed, broken, and given.

Response: Help us live our lives in sacrifice and thanksgiving.

We intend to participate in the Church's continual offering of praise, thanksgiving and intercession, and, by structuring our lives around the daily office, affirm that all our lives belong to God.

We intend to immerse ourselves in the rhythms of sacred time, including observance of the various seasons, feasts and fasts appointed. We will observe the days of special devotion by special acts of discipline and self-denial.

Leader: That we might structure our lives around the disciplines of daily prayer and special observances.

Response: Spirit of God, move within us.

We will devote time to silent prayer daily. Our basic intention is to be lovingly attentive and available to God. We seek the gift of inner silence that will dispose us to receptivity and obedience to God's purposes.

Leader: That we might be still and know that you are God and that we are yours.

Response: Spirit of God, set us on fire to show forth the Risen Christ.

We recognize and embrace our interdependence within the Communion of Saints, and joyfully accept the privileges and burdens of community life. We consent to bear one another's burdens freely, in whatever ways are given us, visible and invisible, known and unknown.

Leader: That we might deepen our sense of commitment to each other as members of Christ's Body and the Rivendell Community.

Response: Spirit of God, move among us.

We commit ourselves to love one another, and others whom God gives us to love, as we love ourselves; that is, to desire, serve and work for the fulfillment of God's purposes in the other. We agree to give and receive encouragement, challenge, comfort, correction, guidance, and provocation to holiness.

In all of these relationships, we commit ourselves to as much transparency, integrity and undefendedness as we are currently capable of sustaining, and intend by God's grace to deepen these qualities.

Leader: May we be Christ to one another and see Christ in one another.

Response: Spirit of God, move among us that our sense of Christian community might grow as we share each other's joys and sorrows with true compassion.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Litany – Rivendell Rule – August 1, 2004