

PRAYING OUR FAREWELLS

for those who leave the community

The Officiant begins:

God of our beginnings and endings,
we celebrate all we have shared with *N. & M.*
and ask your blessing as they continue on their journey.
May the love that is in our hearts
be a bond that unites us forever, wherever we may be.
May the power of your presence
bless this moment of our leave-taking;
this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. *Amen.*

The following RESPONSE may be said:

Off: As you journey onward, we ask forgiveness where we have failed you;
we give thanks for all you have given us; we assure you of our love and prayers.

Those leaving: As I leave, I give thanks for all that you have given to me;
I assure you of my love and prayers.

Off: As you experience the pain of change, and the insecurity of moving on,
we pray that you may also experience the blessing of inner growth.

Those leaving: I know that God goes with me.

Off: As you walk through the good times and the bad,
we pray that you may never lose sight of the shelter of God's loving arms.

Those leaving: I know that God goes with me.

Priest: Let us silently offer our prayers to God and ask a blessing on *N and M:*

A period of silence is observed. The Priest stretches out his hands over those who are departing:

Priest: Let us pray:

We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
for our brothers and sisters who are to leave us.
We entrust them into your loving care,
knowing that you are always the faithful traveler
and companion on the Way. *Amen.*

To the prayers of our blessed Lady I commend you.
May S. Andrew, Apostle and Martyr, pray for you.
May S. Agnes, Child Martyr of Rome, pray for you.
May all the saints of God, pray for you.
May the holy angels befriend you and watch around you to protect you.
May the Lord bless you + and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.
N and M, the Lord bless you. *Amen.*

Those leaving: Thanks be to God.