

## A Prayer for Fall Activities

Each Fall we receive the grace to begin again:  
New school year,  
New parish ministry activities,  
New retreats, new study groups,  
And taking up the old in new ways.

This Fall we pray that we may  
Be open to the Spirit  
And listen carefully,  
To the voices of our neighbors  
In our local, national, and international communities.

May we hear the plight  
Of the victims of violence,  
Of migrants and immigrants,  
Of those who seek food and shelter,  
Of the sick and the elderly,  
Of the victims of intolerance,  
And of Creation itself.

Help us to be open to Christ's teaching  
As we listen to the "least of these"  
And reflect deeply, with study and prayer,  
So we may grow in discipleship.

Help us to refuse to demonize any person or groups  
And to refrain from encouraging polarization.  
Help us to be firm in our commitment to peace and justice  
And to be gentle in our responses to those we disagree with.

The harvest is not over; our work is not complete.  
Guide us, Lord, through the next months  
And bring us all to your table.

~ By Jane Deren

