

Prayer: Prayer for Farmers

(25 minutes)

1 of 1

FACE THE FAST

Materials Needed

- copy of *Prayer for Farmers* for each participant

Procedure

Ask 7 participants to be readers. Consider giving them a copy of the prayer ahead of time and highlight the part they should read.

Distribute a copy of *Prayer for Farmers*. Invite participants to spread out in the prayer space. Consider projecting one of the Food Fast presentations, *Faces of the Fast* or *Food around the World*, during this prayer.

Begin by asking participants to silently reflect on food:

- Where does our food come from?
- Who prepares it?
- How we use food to celebrate and be in community?
- Do we have a responsibility to people who provide us food?

After a few moments, ask the first reader to begin. Each reader should allow some time for quiet reflection on the question listed before reading the next section.

When participants have had time to contemplate the last questions, ask if anyone wants to share something that came to mind during the prayer.

Close with an Our Father.

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Handout

FACE THE FAST

Reader 1 Lord Jesus,
In images of farming and rural life
You announced your gospel to the poor.

What images of farming and rural life come to mind?

Reader 2 We pray for rural men and women,
Especially for those who work hard in the fields.

Have you ever worked in a field? What might that be like?

Reader 3 Give us the strength of your Spirit to be witnesses
And collaborators of the creative providence.

How can we be witnesses to the work of farmers?

Reader 4 May we always sow in ourselves and in our families
The holiness and hope of Christian life,
With the same zeal with which we cultivate our land.

How are we called, as Catholics, to be mindful of the importance of farming?

Reader 5 Bless the daily efforts of farmers and farm workers.
Let all recognize the dignity of their labor.

How might we recognize the dignity of farmers' work?

Reader 6 Raise from among us men and women
At the services of the gospel,
Sisters and brothers to announce unceasingly
Your love for this world that is your own field and farm.

How can we be of service to people who farm, both in the U.S. and around the world?

Reader 7 We give you glory forever and ever.

How do we offer God glory through our respect of farming?

“Prayer for Farmers” by Fr. Ermolao Portella in *Prayer Without Borders*, ©2004, Catholic Relief Services.