## **Opening Prayer for the Louisiana Legislators**

Almighty God and Father, you prayed that all might be one. Not the same... but one. Not one party... not one race ... not one singular interest...rather let us be of ... One heart ... One mind ... and One desire to serve YOU... and to place nothing above or before you.

May our desire to serve you enable us to see you in the faces of those we are called to serve. Help us to realize that in service to our people, we are serving you. Help us to see you in every age and every stage of life ... among those created in your image and likeness.

Let us see you in the disabled and those who are most vulnerable and in need of our protection and concern. Help us to see you in the young searching for security ... and among our elderly who are searching for care and comfort. Let us see you among homeless who are longing for shelter ... and among the confused who are longing for clarity. Let us see you among those who have been marginalized, or addicted and or incarcerated who depend upon us for help and safety.

Never let the opinions of others nor the social trends of the day allow us to abandon YOUR LAW for our will or our popularity.

Heavenly Father, you have allowed us ... and our people have chosen us ... to work for them ... and to guard ... guide ... and protect them. Therefore give us the courage of our convictions. Let our belief in YOU guide our decisions and never let political expediency replace our moral compass ... and never let a wishbone replace our backbone. In doing this may we make our State a place where your law is upheld and your people are given the dignity of being your children.

All this we pray through OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST who lives and reigns forever and ever. AMEN