



Renfrew County Catholic School Board  
*Bringing the Light of Christ's Gospel to the World*  
New Employee Orientation  
**Opening Prayer**

## INTRODUCTION

As we begin our New Employee Orientation this morning, let us take a few moments to reflect on our call to work in Catholic schools and to ask God's blessing on our session.

Please join in our opening song: *We are Called*, verses 1 and 2

## OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Lord, you lavish us with your gifts and call us to use them in the service of love. In so doing, we give glory to your name. We ask you to bless our gathering. May today's presentations and activities help us glorify you in our service of your Son's Gospel through Catholic education. We ask you this in Jesus' name. Amen

Let us be attentive to God's word:

## READING

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.  
(pause)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

## REFLECTION

What makes Catholic education distinctive among school systems? Catholic education's distinctiveness is rooted in Baptism. Baptism unites us with Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, and makes us members of his body, the Church. Catholic educators share the Church's mission *to bring the light of Christ's Good News to the world.*

Everything we do in our Catholic schools is about bringing the light of Christ's Gospel to student learning in all its dimensions. We are called to let the joy of our faith shine through the gifts and talents we bring to our labours. We are challenged to bring out the best in one another and in the children entrusted to our care. Our faith assures us that even in our limitations, Christ continues to work through us and to bring us to maturity as his disciples. He is here, walking with us in our day-to-day activities, providing the grace we need to be his light for one another. His friendship is unshakeable, and this makes all the difference in our lives. It gives meaning to everything we do, and turns our work into something unique, distinctive and beautiful - into *ministry*, despite our imperfections. As we work, learn and grow, may all that we do in our classrooms and hallways give others cause to marvel at the blessings God continues to pour out on his people through our Catholic schools.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For the Church, that all who share a common baptism might work together to bring the light of Christ's Gospel to a world hungering for God's word. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the world, that leaders of nations will look for ways to build peace among all God's children. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who suffer in our communities and homes, that they may find comfort in our show of compassion and care for their needs. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For ourselves, that we might find ways to support one another as we seek to live Christ's message and spread his light in our work and lives. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our personal intentions,.... We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us unite our prayers with one voice using the words that Jesus gave us: ***Our Father...***

## CLOSING PRAYER

Please join together in praying our **Prayer for Our Vision:**

God our Father,  
*You inspire us* through a heritage that is rich in blessings,  
*You challenge us* to grow, as we remember the struggles of our past,  
*You call us* as partners in the Catholic educational community  
To be inclusive of all who seek to learn in the light of faith.

Grant that your Holy Spirit might continue to guide us  
So that by the power of Your grace,  
Our share in the Church's mission  
To spread the Good News of Jesus  
May be relevant in the world today,  
And point to a future that is filled with hope.

We ask you to bless our work,  
That it may serve to protect, nurture and rightly guide  
In the Catholic faith  
Those children You have entrusted to our care,  
To the glory of Your name.

We make this prayer  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## CLOSING SONG

Please join in our closing song: *We are Called*, verses 1 and 3

