



*“Faith that is ... Nurtured”*

January 2013\*

**SUGGESTED OPENING SONGS:**

*Lead Me, Lord* – John D. Becker

*You Are Mine* – David Haas

*Seeds, Scattered and Sown* – Dan Feiten

**OPENING PRAYER:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Loving God,

You breathe Your life into us,

You pour Your waters of grace over us each day.

You give us our daily bread,

You offer us meaning when our lives are in chaos,

You embrace us in wisdom, beauty and love.

For this nurture, we give You thanks.

We ask for the courage to live by Your Word in our Catholic educational community,

To live as witnesses of Your message of hope,

To speak with Your gift of wisdom.

May we nurture those we are called to serve

Just as You have nurtured us.

And may Your Holy Spirit move and guide us in all we do.

We make this prayer to You in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

Amen.

**READING: John 6:28-35**

Then they said to Him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom he has sent.” So they said to Him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from Heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from Heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread from Heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to Him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of

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life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.”

The Gospel of the Lord.      **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**QUESTION FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

What form of bread does our Catholic educational community need most in this Year of Faith?

**REFLECTION: Authentic Nurture**

*Father Ron Rolheiser reminds us that our authority as educational leaders is rooted in our faith in God. When we fail, we must ask ourselves if it is because of lack of authenticity.*

Our preaching and teaching can be powerful and transformative, though not on the basis of brilliance, scholarship, or doctrinal accuracy. We can have all of these and still not speak with any authority, be brilliant and not change anything.

People will recognize us as speaking with authority only when they sense that like Jesus, we are under divine authority ourselves, that our message is not our own, that our actual lives stand behind the message, that our words are meant to reveal God and not ourselves, that we love others enough to give up protecting ourselves, that our real concern is God’s kingdom and not how we impress others, that we consider the community bigger than ourselves and that we are willing to sweat blood rather than get bitter or walk away.

*Ministering with Authority, January 19, 2003*

**QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:**

What are practical ways we seek to nurture our authenticity in Christ?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

God of all hope,  
Bless the learning of our Catholic educational community with Your wisdom.  
May the light of Christ guide us,  
And may our faith be translated into acts of justice and love,  
That lead all who see us to You.  
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Lord and Light of the World.  
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**SUGGESTED CLOSING SONG:**

*Open the Eyes of My Heart* – Paul Baloche  
*You’ll Be In My Heart* – Phil Collins  
*I Will Take Care of You* – Amy Sky

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