



“Faith that is ... Witnessed”

March 2013*

SUGGESTED OPENING SONGS:

Servant Song – Donna Marie McGargill, OSM

The Servant Song – Richard Gillard

We Are Called – David Haas

OPENING PRAYER:

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

God of all goodness,
give us the strength and wisdom
to see you acting in all of creation,
to hear the voices of voiceless,
to complete our prayers in loving action,
to translate our faith into works of justice,
to learn and live what it means to be *light for the world*.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

READING: John 13:31-35

When he had gone out,
Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified
and God has been glorified in Him.
If God has been glorified in Him,
God will also glorify Him in Himself and will glorify Him at once.
Little children, I am with you only a little longer.
You will look for me;
and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you,
‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’
I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

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

*Adapted for RCCDSB use.

QUESTION FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

How does my life witness the love that lets people know that I am a person of faith?

READING: The Path of Witness, the Path of Discipleship

Notice the outcome of the commandment: 'If you love one another as I have loved you, then you will be My disciples and everyone will know that you are My disciples.' So, the measure of our discipleship to Jesus is not whether or not we support our country; not whether or not we did what everyone else did – but whether or not we love one another.

You do this well, so you are disciples of Jesus and I want to encourage you to keep on loving one another, to love everyone in your family, to love everyone in town, to love the people you don't like, to love everyone you will ever meet, to love every human being on the planet, to love the people the government tells us we're not supposed to love and to refuse to go along with the culture of hate and indifference and fear and violence and war, so that everyone will say, "Wow, those people (in our Catholic educational communities) are so loving; they are just like Jesus" and one day, when we reach the end of the road of love, we will be welcomed home into the house of love as we hear in the book of Revelation, where there are no more tears, no more suffering, no more pain, no more violence, no more empires, no more wars, no more nuclear weapons and no more death and we will be ready to spend eternity in the land of love, because we know how to love one another.

Father John Dear S.J. *Homilies*

http://www.johndear.org/sermons_homilies/loveOne05092004.htm

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:

How does our Catholic educational community give witness to the love of Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER: A Prayer for Witnesses

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

may we, Your people,

bear witness to Your love for all.

May everyone we encounter in our daily lives

know that we are Christians by our lived witness

of Your love for us, in us and through us.

In our diversity, help us to rely on one another in love,

Just as we rely on You.

Help us grow in the gift of Your oneness;

As Your family, Your Church, Your people,

gathered in Your love.

We make this prayer to You in Jesus' name.

Amen. (Adapted from National Council of Churches: www.nccusa.org/witnesses2010/prayerforwitnesses.pdf)

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

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONGS:

Prayer of St. Francis – Sebastian Temple

Go Make A Difference – Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

Hands – Jewel

My Own Two Hands – Ben Harper

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