

For our families and our communities: that we may serve with joy in our hearts so that we may give thanks and praise for the many gifts with which You bless us,
we pray ... R.



LITANY OF SERVICE

Reader: You asked for my hands that You might use them for Your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them for the work was hard.
Lord, have mercy. **All:** *Lord, have mercy.*

Reader: You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave You a whisper that I might not be accused.
Christ, have mercy. **All:** *Christ, have mercy.*

Reader: You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them for I did not want to see.
Lord, have mercy. **All:** *Lord, have mercy.*

Reader: You asked for my life that You might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.
Christ, have mercy. **All:** *Christ, have mercy.*

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, our Loving Creator,
Jesus, our Saviour and Master Teacher,
Holy Spirit of Wisdom,
Of all the gifts You give us, the greatest is love.
Open our eyes to see, our ears to listen, our minds to learn.
Open our hearts to be accepting of others, and our hands to be more giving toward those in need: the lost, the lonely, the lowly and the least.
Each day, help us to serve you prayerfully with *faithfulness*.
Lead us to a deeper awareness of your loving presence in our lives,
and help us to serve with *humility* on this earthly journey to eternal life.

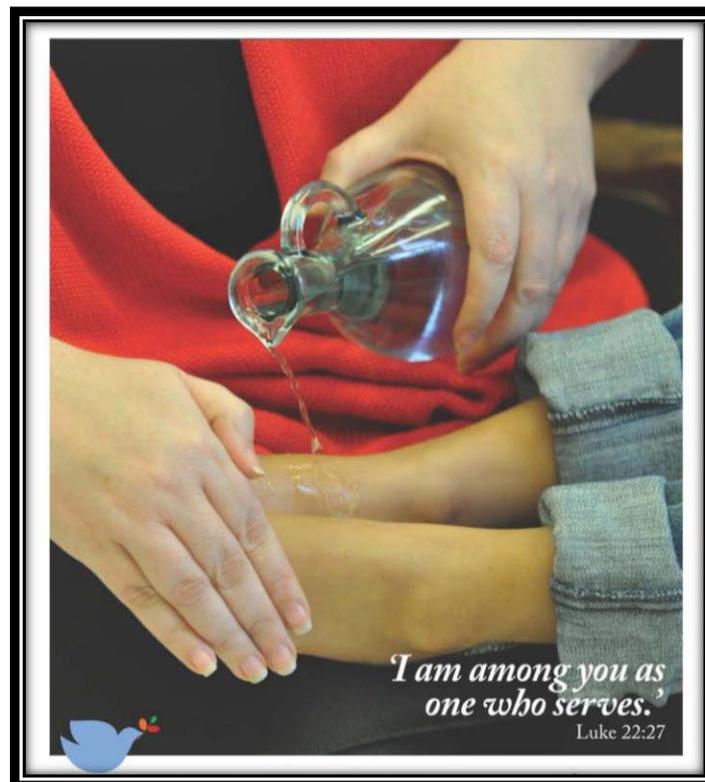


We make this prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord, who came among us as one who serves.
Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth to serve with humility in the Love of Christ.
✠ And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
All: *Amen.*

Catholic Education Week
May 4 - May 9, 2014

SERVING IN THE
LOVE OF CHRIST



DAY TWO: Prayer Service

... Serving with
HUMILITY

**“For all who exalt themselves will be humbled
and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**
~ Luke 14:11

Opening Song Suggestions:

<i>Serving in the Love of Christ</i>	2014 Catholic Education Week Theme Song
<i>Be God's</i>	By Danielle Rose (YouTube™ video)
<i>I Will Follow the Good Shepherd</i>	#10, We Belong to God (Grade 1 CD)
<i>Speak, Lord</i>	#2, May We Be One (Grade 5 CD)
<i>Am I Strong Enough</i>	#2, Stand By Me (Grade 8 CD)

Opening Hymn Suggestions:

<i>Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service</i>	#668, Gather (red); #507, CBW III
<i>Here I Am, Lord</i>	#671, Gather (red); #520, CBW III
<i>Come and Follow Me</i>	#677, Gather (red)
<i>The Summons</i>	#687, Gather (red)
<i>Take, O Take Me As I Am</i>	#692, Gather (red) - Ostinato Refrain

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:27e)
As we begin the celebration of Catholic Education Week, let us remember all those who commit their lives in service to the community of faith we call the Church.



Here in this place, gathered in Jesus's name, we become quiet and still in his sacred presence to reflect on the meaning of *Serving with humility*.

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith:

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

All:

Reader:

Our God is a God of humility.
His Spirit of love is in our midst to make us one and to help us pray as we gather in Jesus' name.
Today, we will contemplate the words of Jesus, telling us that He is among us as one who serves.
We bring to God everything we are and everything we have:
- our joys, our worries, our doubts, our faith, our strengths and our difficulties.
We will ask God to open our hearts, our minds and our whole being to His loving presence in our lives.



OPENING PRAYER

All: Loving God, help us to deepen our understanding of what it means to *serve with humility*.
Guide our feet to walk in the ways of Jesus, who was born in a lowly manger, travelled on foot, walked among the lepers and washed His apostles' feet.
We make this prayer through this same Jesus, Your Son, who is here among us as we gather in His name, to show us how to serve in his love. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:7-14

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. **All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted." He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

REFLECTION

- *Blessed Mother Teresa said, "Live simply so that others may simply live." What can I do to simplify my life?*
- *How can I serve God and others more humbly with all my heart?*

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Ever-living and ever-loving God, joining together in prayer, we entrust to You ourselves, our neighbours, the Church and the world, imploring Your mercy and Your blessings.



The Response to the petitions is: **R. Be with us, Loving God, in all our needs.**

For Church leaders, especially Pope Francis, that they may continue to *serve with faithfulness*, spreading the Good News of the Gospel by their words and actions, we *pray ... R.*

For our communities, our First Nations peoples, our province, our country, all people of the world: that all may learn to *serve with humility* by working together with respect and understanding, for the common good, we *pray ... R.*

For our Catholic schools (especially N.): that the Holy Spirit may guide us to *serve with compassion* in all areas of our Catholic school life, hearing the words of Jesus and recognizing his face in one another as we learn and grow as his disciples, we *pray ... R.*

For our students and staff: that we may learn to *serve with justice*, and with God's help, make our schools and world places of healing, reconciliation, fairness and peacemaking, we *pray ... R.*

For our families and our communities: that we may *serve with joy* in our hearts, with thanksgiving and praise for the many gifts with which You bless us, we *pray ... R.*