

LITANY OF SERVICE

The response is: *Let me be as Christ to you.*

Reader: "Not all of us can do great things.
But we can do small things with great love."
(Blessed Mother Teresa)

All: *Let me be as Christ to you.*

Reader: "The best way to find yourself
is to lose yourself in the service of others." *(Mahatma Gandhi)*

All: *Let me be as Christ to you.*

Reader: "If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else,
you will have succeeded." *(Maya Angelou)*

All: *Let me be as Christ to you.*

Reader: "Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve ...
You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."
(Martin Luther King, Jr.)

All: *Let me be as Christ to you.*

Reader: "The Simple Path: Silence is Prayer. Prayer is Faith.
Faith is Love. Love is Service. The Fruit of Service is Peace."
(Blessed Mother Teresa)

All: *Let me be as Christ to you.*



CLOSING PRAYER

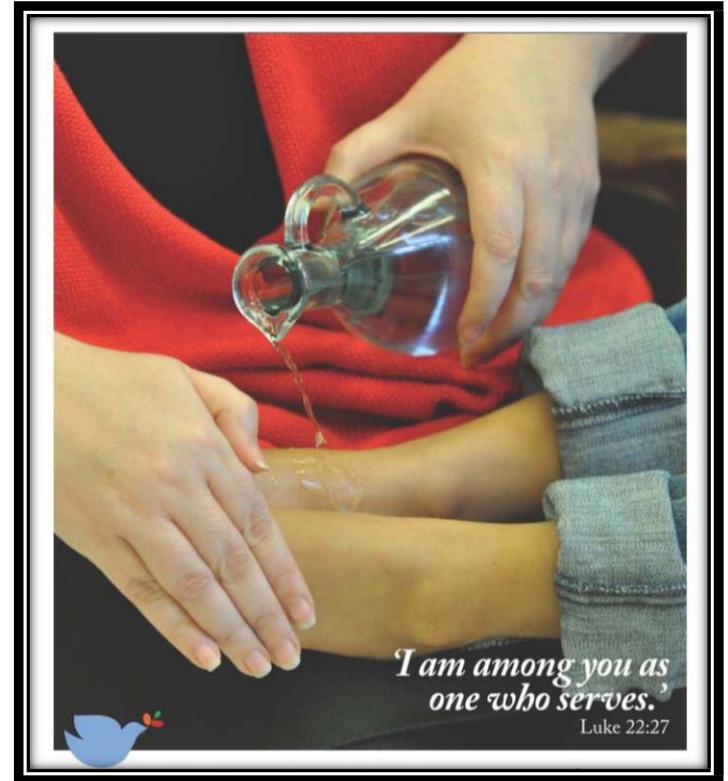
O God, our Loving Creator,
Jesus, our Saviour and Master Teacher,
Holy Spirit of Wisdom,
Of all the gifts You give us, the greatest is love.
Open our eyes to see, our ears to listen, our minds to learn.
Open our hearts to be accepting of others, and our hands to be more giving
toward those in need: the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

... Serving with
FAITHFULNESS

**"... serve the Lord faithfully with all your heart;
for consider what great things He has done for you."**
~ 1 Samuel 12:24

Opening Song Suggestions:

Serving in the Love of Christ
Let the Children Come to Me
We Believe
You Shall Be My Witnesses

2014 Catholic Education Week Theme Song
#5, We Belong to God (Grade 1 CD)
#8, We Belong to the Lord Jesus (Grade 2 CD)
#23, You Shall be My Witnesses (Grade 6 CD)

Opening Hymn Suggestions:

We Will Serve the Lord #652, Gather (red)
One Lord #667, Gather (red)
Here I Am, Lord #671, Gather (red); #520, CBW III
I Will Choose Christ #683, Gather (red)
Lord, You Give the Great Commission #466, Gather (red); #691, CBW III

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 Faithfulness*.



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.
All: *Amen.*

Reader: Our God is a God of faithfulness.
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: **Let us pray,**
Loving God, we ask you to deepen our understanding of what it means to serve with faithfulness.
Guide our feet to walk in the ways of Jesus.
Help our hands to create a welcoming and inclusive world.
May Your love inspire us and Your light sustain us, as we strive to serve in the Love of Christ.
We ask this through this same Jesus Christ, Your Son. *Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 12:20-24

A reading from the book of the first book of Samuel.

And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart; and do not turn aside after useless things that cannot profit or save. For the Lord will not cast away his people for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself. Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you."



The Word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

REFLECTION

- *What great things has God done for me?*
- *How can I serve God and others more faithfully 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.*