

**LITANY OF SERVICE**

**Reader:** From hardened hearts rather than open hearts.  
**All:** *Free us, O Lord.*

**Reader:** From judging others rather than accepting.  
**All:** *Free us, O Lord.*

**Reader:** From excluding rather than including.  
**All:** *Free us, O Lord.*

**Reader:** From pride in power rather than humility in serving.  
**All:** *Free us, O Lord.*

**Reader:** From indifference rather than compassion.  
**All:** *Free us, O Lord.*



**CLOSING PRAYER**

O God, our Loving Creator,  
Jesus, our 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.  
Help us to serve with *humility* on this earthly journey to eternal life.  
Teach us to serve with *compassion* that we may see the face of Christ in everyone we  
meet.



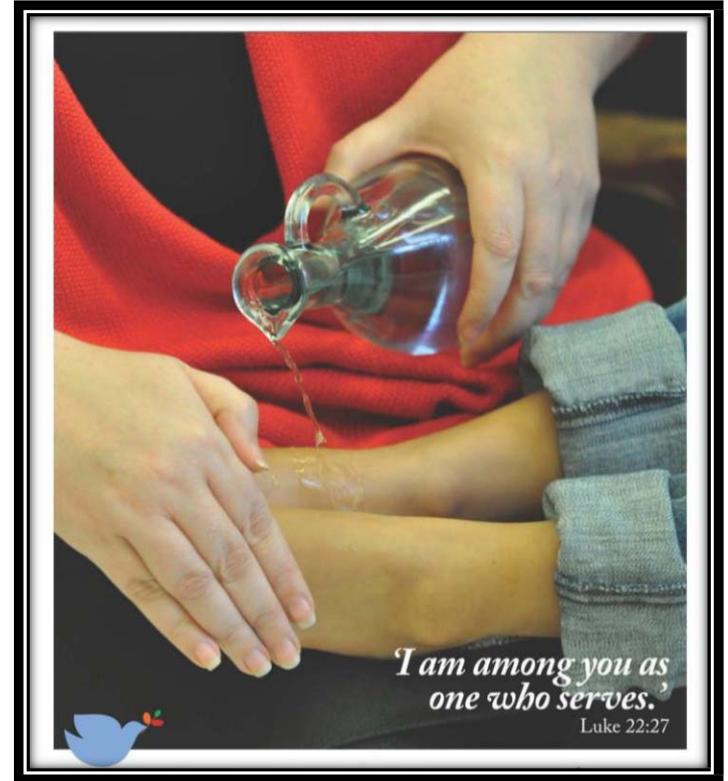
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord, who  
came among us as one who serves.  
*Amen.*

**Leader:** Let us go forth to serve with compassion 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 THREE: Prayer Service**

*... Serving with*  
**COMPASSION**

**“As God’s chosen ones, clothe yourselves  
with compassion and kindness ...”**  
*~ Colossians 3:12*

**Opening Song Suggestions:**

<i>Serving in the Love of Christ</i>	<b>2014 Catholic Education Week Theme Song</b>
<i>God Cares</i>	#14, We Belong to God (Grade 1 CD)
<i>Wherever I Am</i>	#21, Come and See (Grade 4 CD)
<i>The Golden Rule</i>	#12, Stand By Me (Grade 8 CD)

**Opening Hymn Suggestions:**

<i>This is My Example</i>	#427, Gather (red)
<i>Whatsoever You Do</i>	#656, Gather (red)
<i>The Servant Song</i>	#661, Gather (red)
<i>Make Me a Channel of Your Peace</i>	#721, Gather (red)
<i>We Are Many Parts</i>	#727, Gather (red)

**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 Compassion*.



**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 compassion.  
 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 compassion*.  
 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**

*Colossians 3:12-17*

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



The Word of the Lord.

**All:** *Thanks be to God.*

**REFLECTION**

- *How do I show my compassion for others?*
- *How can I serve God and others more compassionately 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.*