

LITANY OF SERVICE

Reader: Where there is discrimination and inequity.
All: *Deliver us, O Lord.*

Reader: Where there is poverty and oppression.
All: *Deliver us, O Lord.*

Reader: Where there is justice and fairness.
All: *Teach us, O Lord.*

Reader: Where there is acceptance and tolerance.
All: *Teach us, O Lord.*

Reader: In solidarity, for the dignity of all, for the common good.
All: *Bless us, O Lord.*



CLOSING PRAYER



O God, our Loving Creator,
O Jesus, our Saviour and Master Teacher,
O 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.

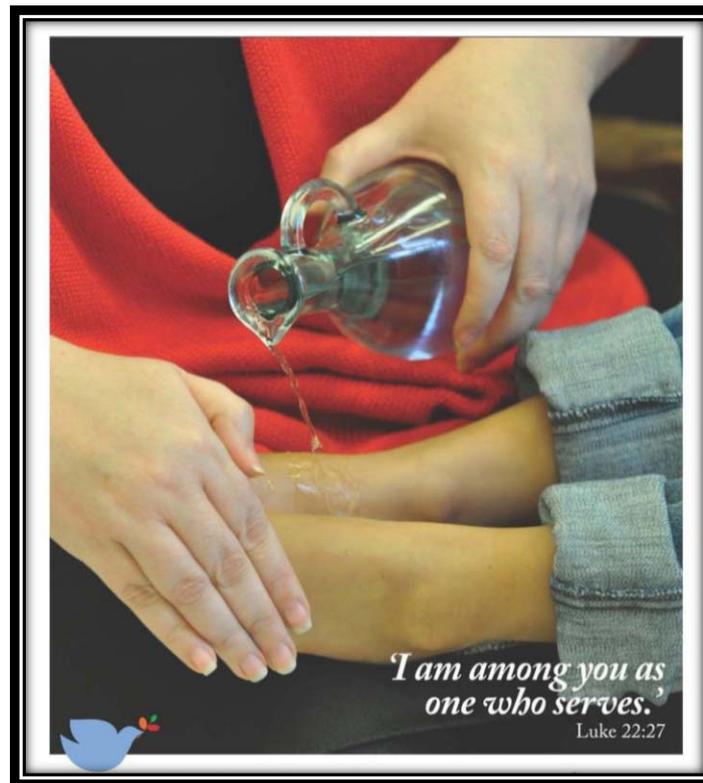
Each day, help us to serve you prayerfully with *faithfulness*,
And lead us to a deeper awareness of your loving presence in our lives.
Help us to serve with *humility* on this earthly journey to eternal life.
Teach us to serve with *compassion* that we may see the face of Christ in
everyone we meet.
Strengthen us to serve You with *justice*, that we might build a world where
all are treated with dignity.
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 justice* in the Love of Christ.

All: ☩ And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Catholic Education Week May 4 - May 9, 2014

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST



DAY FOUR: *Prayer Service* ... *Serving with* **JUSTICE**

“Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
~ Matthew 25:40

Opening Song Suggestions:

<i>Serving in the Love of Christ</i>	2014 Catholic Education Week Theme Song
<i>Jesus is Our Peace</i>	#20, In the Spirit, We Belong (Grade 3 CD)
<i>People of Peace</i>	#12, May We Be One (Grade 5 CD)
<i>Act Justly</i>	# 2, Believe in Me (Grade 7 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>Anthem</i>	#681, Gather (red)
<i>Voices That Challenge</i>	#702, Gather (red)
<i>We Are Called</i>	#710, 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 Justice*.

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 justice.
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 justice.
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

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

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'



The Gospel of the Lord. **All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

REFLECTION

- *The Golden Rule reminds us to do unto others as we would have done to ourselves. How does the Golden rule challenge me to treat other people?*
- *How can I serve God and others more justly 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.*