

# **Disciples and Citizens**

## **Opening Prayer for a TPA Inservice**

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love, Temperance

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence, Stewardship

### **INTRODUCTION**

Let us begin our meeting by listening to the wisdom of God's word and asking God's blessing on our presentations and discussions today.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Let us begin our prayer: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, you sent us your Son to reveal to us the depths of your mercy. May our discussions today help us better carry out the mission you have entrusted us as his disciples. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us listen to God's word.

### **READING**

(Luke 20, 21-26)

[The scribes and the chief priests] asked him, "Teacher, we know that you are right in what you say and teach, and you show deference to no one, but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to the emperor or not?" But he perceived their craftiness and said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose head and whose title does it bear?" They said, "The emperor's." He said to them, "Then give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's." And they were not able in the presence of the people to trap him by what he said; and being amazed by his answer, they became silent.

(pause)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### **REFLECTION**

It is a constant challenge for the baptized to straddle the temporal and spiritual spheres. Our life in Christ does not free us from our responsibilities to society. We are in the world, but not of the world. We are to respect the necessary structures of our times, while being guided by the light of the Gospel. We walk together as members of the pilgrim Church, calling one another to be all that we can become as earthly citizens and as sons and daughters of God. We seek justice and temper it with mercy; we humbly call one another to grow, knowing that we ourselves are a work in progress.

We are employees of the state, and yet the narrative of the Gospel is our own. This enables us to ensure our schools provide mandated instruction, in the language of our faith. It challenges us to educate for citizenship within a formation for discipleship. It

informs our efforts to support one another's professional growth as colleagues and as brothers and sisters in Christ.

In our endeavours to assess and improve our performance, our primary focus is the best interests of young disciples in our care. By preparing ourselves to serve their needs, we are helping equip a generation materially and spiritually to transform the world with the power of the Gospel.

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

For the Church, that all the baptized might find ways to collaborate in seeking first the Kingdom in all their affairs. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the world, that God's children everywhere will work for peace and cooperation among all peoples. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

For friends, colleagues and members of our educational communities who suffer, that they might find comfort in our prayers and attentiveness to their needs. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

For ourselves today, that we might seek to bring out what is best in one another in all our efforts to carry out the responsibilities with which we have been entrusted. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our personal intentions,.... *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us unite our prayers with one voice using the words that Jesus gave us: ***Our Father...***

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Please join together in praying our closing prayer:

God our Father,  
*You inspire us* through a heritage that is rich in blessings,  
*You challenge us* to grow, as we remember the struggles of our past,  
*You call us* as partners in the Catholic educational community  
To be inclusive of all who seek to learn in the light of faith.

Grant that your Holy Spirit might continue to guide us  
So that by the power of Your grace,  
Our share in the Church's mission  
To spread the Good News of Jesus  
May be relevant in the world today,  
And point to a future that is filled with hope.

We ask you to bless our work,  
That it may serve to protect, nurture and rightly guide  
In the Catholic faith  
Those children You have entrusted to our care,  
To the glory of Your name.

We make this prayer  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

*(RCCDSB Prayer for Our Vision)*

And may almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.