

Opening Prayer

Educating in Christian Hope

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Fortitude
Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship

As we begin this day of professional development, let us take a moment to prayerfully reflect on our calling to bring Christian hope to those we are called to educate in the light of faith, and to ask God's blessing on our day.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray: Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts to understand what you would have us know this day, that we might fruitfully use our gifts and talents to fulfill the tasks to which you have called us as educators in Catholic schools. We make this prayer to You in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Reading: (1 Pet 1, 3-12)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith -being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire- may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The risen Jesus defeated the power of evil, despair and fear in the world. The first Christians knew this, and despite all obstacles, struggles and even persecution, their life in Christ was one of hope. This same life of hope is ours, as sharers in Christ's life, through Baptism. In Him, we are people of hope, who can become all God has called us to be.

St. Peter's words of encouragement to his flock continue to ring true for us today. His words reminded his hearers past and present that what they did for one another mattered, and that despite everyday appearances, wondrous things *were* being accomplished in their midst in ways they could hardly imagine.

And so it is with us. If the outcome of our work depended only on ourselves, we might feel overwhelmed by our responsibilities. We can take comfort, however, in knowing that we are part of a bigger plan whose realization is assured by the death and resurrection of Christ, and carried to fullness by the Holy Spirit. This same Spirit is constantly at work in our midst, bringing the seeds of God's reign within hearts young and old to fruition, according to God's mysterious design. What these seeds will yield, we do not know. And so, we work and pray in sure and steadfast hope, knowing that ours is a privileged role in a young person's path of knowledge that stretches from birth into eternal life.

Let us pause now for a moment and gather in our hearts our needs, the needs of those we love and serve, the needs of our communities of faith, and those of the world.... And let us unite our prayers with the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father...*

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord and Giver of Life, you inspire our hearts with wonder at the gift of knowledge. Grant that we may never cease to grow in appreciation for your marvelous deeds, so that the Good News of Jesus may be ever present in all that we do. We make this prayer to You in His name. Amen

And may Almighty God bless us, and bless our day, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen